

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Ring... Bernard Levin sings the praises of the masterly Hall-Solihayreuth production... of steel Business News begins a three-part series on how Britain's engineering giants are riding the recovery... and confidence Recession and sensible sobriety normally go together on the fashion scene: the return of glamour proves that things are getting better

Off with the dance Roger Scruton bemoans the passing of quick-quick-slow and its replacement in the palais by a lonely sexual parody

On with the mini Part two of our series on the rise and fall of Biba, symbol of the Swinging Sixties

US 'show of force' criticized

President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico opened talks with President Reagan in La Paz with an appeal for political dialogue and an end to "shows of force" in Central America. He said that traditional US-Mexican friendship would overcome "the many barriers" in relations. Earlier story, page 6

Guns charge

A man from the Irish Republic was charged in Le Havre, Normandy, with illegally transporting weapons and ammunition after the police had seized a lorry bound for Brussels. Page 2

Tamil toll

The leader of the main Tamil political party in Sri Lanka said in Delhi that last month's anti-Tamil race riots probably claimed 2,000 lives on the islands. Tamils pray, page 3

Gormley better

The condition of Lord Gormley, who suffered a stroke, is continuing to improve at Charing Cross Hospital, London. He even picked a horse race winner, a spokesman said.

Karachi riot

Police used tear gas in Karachi when a crowd of 20,000 people demonstrated against martial law under President Zia ul-Haq was attacked by his supporters. Page 4

Davey report

Attempts by the police in Coventry to restrain Mr James Davey while questioning him were responsible for his death, an independent report says. Page 3

Nato fears

The Mediterranean, once very much a Nato lake, is causing the allies concern as resources are stretched and Soviet naval power grows. Page 4

Pit pressure

The National Coal Board is renewing pressure for the closure of uneconomic pits after reporting an overall loss of £11m in the last financial year. Page 2

System X test

System X, the British-designed electronic digital telephone exchange, is competing for the £20m Hull City Council contract, which it must win to prove its viability. Page 13

Prost wins

Alain Prost, of France, in a turbo Renault, won the Austrian Grand Prix to lengthen his lead in the formula one motor racing championship. Page 18

Leader page, 11 Letters: On the green belt, from Mr S. Chapman, MP, and Mr R. W. G. Smith; alternative medicine, from Dr R. D. Tonkin and others; Leading articles: Turkey's future; Soviet nationalism; Loch Ness monster; Features, pages 8-10 The new Gaulism threatening Nato; preserving cemeteries; Gerald Kaufman on Labour's leadership battle; Spectrum; Obituary, page 12 Li-Cot T. H. Newey, Rev T. P. Symonds

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Lawson heads for cash struggle with Heseltine

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

Mr Nigel Lawson and Mr Michael Heseltine are heading for a confrontation over the rising level of defence spending. Mr Lawson, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, is authoritatively expected to question seriously in his first public spending review the necessity for Britain to extend its commitment to Nato's target of a 3 per cent per year growth in defence expenditure.

The commitment expires in 1985-86, but a decision on whether it should continue in 1986-87 will have to be taken soon. Mr Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, is expected to seek the renewal of the commitment for that year and well beyond.

Mr Lawson, will argue that maintenance of the 3 per cent target will mean that defence would have to take more resources at the expense of areas like health and education.

Mr Heseltine, however, will put up a tough fight, boosted by his success against Treasury opposition, in getting the Cabinet to back British technology with the £250m order for the new Air-Launched Anti-Radar Missile (ALARM) for the Royal Air Force rather than the American High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM), already in production. Treasury officials have emphasized that the 3 per cent Nato figure is only a target which Britain has been more virtuous than other countries in meeting. Mr Lawson will point out that since the mid 1970s defence has gone ahead of health and education to become the second largest consumer of public money.

At present it is some £16,000m a year, compared with £35,000m on social security, £14,500m on health and £12,500m on education, and officials point out that factors such as the cost of maintaining a growing population of old people mean that defence spending cannot go on rising proportionately more than social spending.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is seen as a key figure in the forthcoming Cabinet argument. His predecessor, Mr Francis Pym and Lord Carrington, had both previously served as defence secretaries and could be counted on to support the Ministry of Defence in its battles with the Treasury. Sir Geoffrey, as a former Chancellor and architect of the strategy Mr Lawson is maintaining, can be expected to back his successor.

The argument between the Treasury and the Defence Ministry will extend to extra spending requests from defence which form part of the £5,000m that will have to be trimmed from programmes if the Government is to hold public spending for 1984-85 to the planned level of £126,400m.

Talks between Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and ministers about where savings are to be made have started and will continue through the autumn, leading to a statement in November.

MPs are looking forward to the likely clash between Mr Lawson and Mr Heseltine with keen interest. Mr Heseltine let his close colleagues know that he was furious last month at having to agree, the day after he published his defence White Paper, to a £240m spending cut as part of Mr Lawson's emergency £500m package of cuts. He was said then to have vowed not to let it happen again.

Mr Heseltine, left, and Mr Lawson, right, in a moment of calm before the storm.

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Threats mar papal visit

From Roger Beardwood Paris

Stooping and looking tired, the Pope arrived five minutes late yesterday for the start of a two-day pastoral visit and pilgrimage to Lourdes, the centre of French devotion to the Virgin Mary and St Bernadette, who claimed to have seen her in a vision in 1858.

President Mitterrand was waiting at Tarbes airport, about eight miles from Lourdes, when the Pope's DC9 airliner touched down.

As the Pope left the aircraft, the band of the Garde Republicaine played the Vatican national anthem, followed by the "Marseillaise". Ecclesiastical dignitaries, Government ministers, members of the Senate and the National Assembly, and mayors were also at the airport.

In his welcome Mitterrand said he saluted in the papacy "an institution that has marked profoundly all of history," and particularly that of France. The Pope had made his own "the great causes of peace, solidarity and justice."

The Pope, in turn, said the French people - both Christian and non-Christian - stood for "liberty, equality and peace among all the world's peoples."

Children presented the Pope with bouquets of flowers in the papal colours of pale yellow and gold before he and Mitterrand left by helicopter for a one-hour private meeting at the prefecture of Tarbes, formerly an archbishop's palace.

Meanwhile, in Lourdes, crowds estimated at more than 200,000 had spent the day singing hymns and praying while they waited for the Pope's arrival. Many hundreds were on crutches or in wheelchairs, invalids who believe in the miracle-working properties of the Lourdes waters.

But the crowds, the religious fervour, and the flag-bedecked streets and banners failed to mask the tensions.

Up to 4,000 policemen, including paramilitary units, were on duty. Sharpshooters were on rooftops, and special forces were in the town.

A Port of London Authority spokesman said it was believed to be fuel oil from the Shell and Mobil refineries on Canvey Island.

Temperatures continued to rise yesterday, reaching 82°F in London.

Police cleared holiday-makers from some beaches in Essex yesterday when a six-mile oil slick started to come ashore.

Council officials set up an all-night watch to monitor the slick which stretched from Southend to Shoeburyness. It was, they said, the most serious incident of its type for several years.

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Golden moment: Cram wins the 1,500 metres, with his fellow-Briton, Ovett, in fourth place.

Cram wins gold on last day at Helsinki

By Our Sports Staff

The world athletics championships in Helsinki ended on a triumphant note for Britain yesterday when Steve Cram won the gold medal in the 1,500 metres. Cram, aged 22, took the lead with 200 metres to go and withstood the challenges of the American, Steve Scott, who was second, and of Said Aouita, of Morocco, who was third.

Fourth was Britain's other finalist, Steve Ovett, who lost his chance of a medal when boxed in at the start of the last lap.

Cram's victory completes his emergence from the shadows of Ovett, the world record holder, and Sebastian Coe, who was absent from the championships because of illness. Cram won the European and Commonwealth titles last year.

Britain also won two bronze medals yesterday. In the women's 200 metres Kathy Cook finished third behind Marita Koch, of East Germany, and the Jamaican, Marlene Ottey, and the relay team of Ainsley Bennett, Garry Cook, Todd Bennett and Philip Brown took third place in the men's 4 x 400 metres. Their success owed much to a spectacular fall by the American, Willie Smith.

For the second time in the championships Allan Wells, the British sprinter, failed by one place to win a medal. He finished fourth in the 100 metres and did so again in the 200, won by Calvin Smith, of the United States. The Republic of Ireland had a gold medal winner - their first for 27 years in a major championships - in Eamonn Coghlan in the 5,000 metres.

Mary Decker, of the United States, underlined her supremacy in women's middle distance running when she followed her win in the 3,000 metres by taking the 1,500 metres title. Australia's Robert de Castella won the marathon.

Frank Dick, Britain's national coach, yesterday rebutted stories that athletes were involved in obtaining proscribed drugs on mail order. Mr Dick said, "I know of no British athlete in track and field who is or has ever seriously contemplated being involved with these illegal substances."

Reports and results, page 18

Nkomo ends British exile today

By Rodney Cowton

Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Opposition in Zimbabwe, is to fly back to Harare today after five months in exile in Britain.

The timing of his return will have been strongly influenced by a desire to defend his seat in the Zimbabwe House of Assembly against a move due on Wednesday which would dispossess him of it.

In an official statement, made on his behalf Mr Nkomo, aged 66, said: "When I was forced by events to leave my country, I made it clear I was not leaving just for my own safety."

"I have made use of this enforced absence to work out ways of trying to achieve a solution to the problems of my country. I shall be attending the session of Parliament in Harare on Wednesday when I shall have more to say."

Mr Nkomo left Zimbabwe after a series of incidents in which it was alleged that arms had been found in premises with which he was connected, and when he believed his life was threatened.

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Chad leader ready to defend south

Ndjamena (Reuters) - President Hissene Habré's Government seems poised to defend the north of Chad after the capture of Faya-Largeau by ex-President Goukouni Oueddei's forces last week, according to informed sources. It seems determined, however, to make a stand in the south.

France's senior presidential adviser on African affairs, M. Guy Penne, had talks yesterday with President Habré as French paratroops were ordered to Salala, a military outpost 250 miles north of the capital, to train Chadian troops in the use of anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons.

A first contingent of 150 paratroops was dispatched on Saturday to Abéché, the main town in eastern Chad and one of Mr Habré's traditional strongholds. French troops are under orders not to engage in fighting.

The dispatch of French troops to Abéché and Salala appeared to confirm that Government forces were establishing a defence line from east to west.

Sources said that Mr Habré was bound to renew calls for France to provide air cover and send in combat troops in his meeting with M. Penne, who arrived from Bangui in the neighbouring Central African Republic.

Mr Habré has claimed that Libyan aggression justifies French intervention. Last week he accused M. Penne and other French officials of being members of a "Libyan lobby" seeking to avoid antagonizing Colonel Gaddafi.

PARIS: French support for Chad will develop according to circumstances and will be decided on solely by the Government. M. Claude Cheysson, French Foreign Minister, said over the weekend (AFP reports).

Leaders of 10 Central African states are in Brazzaville, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Congo's revolution.

Three years ago on August 14 Lech Walesa climbed into the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk to address a strike that was to trigger unrest throughout Poland and which eventually led to the birth of Solidarity.

Yesterday, with Solidarity almost buried, the Gdansk shipyard workers marked the anniversary with characteristic defiance. In the yards, a clandestinely printed leaflet called on the Polish authorities to start talks with Mr Walesa before August 22, otherwise Polish workers would stage a go-slow for 10 days.

Outside the yards 2,000 workers tried unsuccessfully to lay bunches of flowers at the foot of three crosses that commemorate workers shot during unrest in 1970 along the Baltic coast.

Both sides alleged attempted ballot-rigging and intimidation of voters.

Reporters in Ibadan said several other bodies had been found and the official toll was expected to rise.

Newspapers reported that in Ilesha, another Oyo town, there was one death, with two in Ijebu-Ode, in neighbouring Ondo state, and two in the Maroko area of Lagos. Police confirmation was not available.

The remaining deaths were announced by Mr Uba Ahmed, NPN national secretary, who said six party members had been killed in the town of Abeokuta in western Ogun state, but did not make it clear when.

"Our followers have been subjected to all kinds of brutal killings and beatings. We have just lost six men in Abeokuta as of now," he told a news conference.

Houses and cars were also reported to have been burnt in some towns as large groups of vigilantes hunted for what they said was evidence of attempts to rig the elections.

Dismissed staff at Cowley belong, said that the first responsibility for recruitment policy lay with the company. "We expect them to join the union, and invariably they do," he said.

It was impossible for the union to identify "notorious troublemakers," he said. "We have to accept who they elected. This is democracy." There is to be a local TGWU inquiry into the Cowley row, but Mr Hawley ruled out a "witch-hunt".

Six of the 13 dismissed workers, including three women, have had their appeals rejected by the company. A similar fate appears to be in store for the remaining seven who appeal against dismissal today.

Campaign calm shattered 12 die in Nigeria poll violence

Lagos (Reuters) - Twelve people were killed in western Nigeria during voting to elect state governors, according to reports here yesterday.

The violence was worse in the western state of Oyo, and marred a generally peaceful polling period that started on August 6 with the presidential election. Police imposed a dawn-to-dusk curfew there from last night.

At least one person was killed in Ibadan, the state capital, when fighting broke out between supporters of President Shagari's National Party of Nigeria and those of the Unity Party of Nigeria, which rules the state. Paramilitary police used tear gas to disperse crowds.

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NCB renews pressure for pit closures after losses of £111m

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board is renewing pressure for the closure of uneconomic pits after reporting an overall loss of £111m in the last financial year.

Permission for the closure of two pits and two coking works employing a total of 2,500 men is expected after first appeals by the National Union of Mineworkers are heard this week.

By the end of the 1983-84 financial year, the board expects to have shut at least 15 collieries, and the only question now in the minds of the industry's management is whether the new chairman, the former British Steel Corporation chief, Mr Ian MacGregor, will demand greater acceleration of the closure programme.

A final appeal will be heard in London tomorrow over the fate of Cardowan, the last pit in Lanarkshire, which employs about 1,100 men. Two of the mine's three working faces have

been closed and the third is said to be very thin coal.

More than 300 of the older men have volunteered for redundancy payments and about 70 have transferred to other Scottish pits. The board regards Cardowan as a hopeless case.

A second appeal tomorrow is over the fate of Brynllw pit near Swansea in West Glamorgan. It employs 730 men and nearly £5m was spent on a modernization scheme in 1982.

The board admits that it has ample reserves, but argues that it should close because the central Electricity Generating Board is closing Carmarthen Bay power station, which takes most of the colliery's output.

On Thursday there will be similar appeals against the closure of coking works at Coedely in south Wales and Fishburn, co Durham, which employ between them about 800 men.

In the case of those two plants, the board says that closure is inevitable because of the collapse of the market for coking coal due to the recession in the steel industry.

The final appeals procedure is chaired by Mr James Cowan, NCB member for industrial relations and former chairman of the Scottish area. He reports to the full board, which usually announces its verdict within two weeks.

The outcome of the appeals is being watched closely by leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers who are committed to holding a secret ballot "at the appropriate time" on industrial action to halt closures.

Mr Michael McGahey, Communist president of Scottish pitmen, has said that the shutdown of Cardowan will be the first test of that policy.

Group to help child gamblers

Gamblers Anonymous is to set up a junior branch for children addicted to playing gaming machines. The decision was made yesterday after the organization was told that there had been an "explosion" over the past 12 months in the number of youngsters hooked on gaming machines.

It approved the scheme at its national conference in Birmingham. Members feared youngsters might feel that their problems were not that serious if they attended ordinary meetings and heard adults talking about losing huge sums of money.

The conference also gave the go-ahead for a parents' branch of the sister organization, Gam Anon, which helps the relatives of gamblers.

Delegates decided to issue a new teaching pack for schools warning of the dangers of gaming machines and they also told parents to look out for signs that children were gambling, such as a constant need for money, the disappearance of valuables from the house and unsociable behaviour.

The organization said: "We have had hundreds of calls for help from parents who are worried their children have become addicted to these machines."

Few apply for youth training places

By Our Labour Editor

School-leavers evidently are showing less than overwhelming interest in the Government's £1,000m Youth Training Scheme which is due to come into operation in less than a month's time. Fewer than one in 20 of the 460,000 available places had been filled at the last count.

The Manpower Services Commission, which is implementing the ambitious programme designed to give every young person training and work experience, has arranged 98 per cent of the target places with employers.

But by the end of June, the take-up was only 21,679. The commission says that the scheme is not yet in full swing and young people would not decide until the end of the summer holidays "whether they would be going into employment, further education or YTS".

School-leavers opting for a YTS place will get an allowance of £25 a week from the Government, while employers will receive a subsidy of £1,850 a year. TUC leaders will urge Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, later this week to increase the allowance to £26.50 a week.

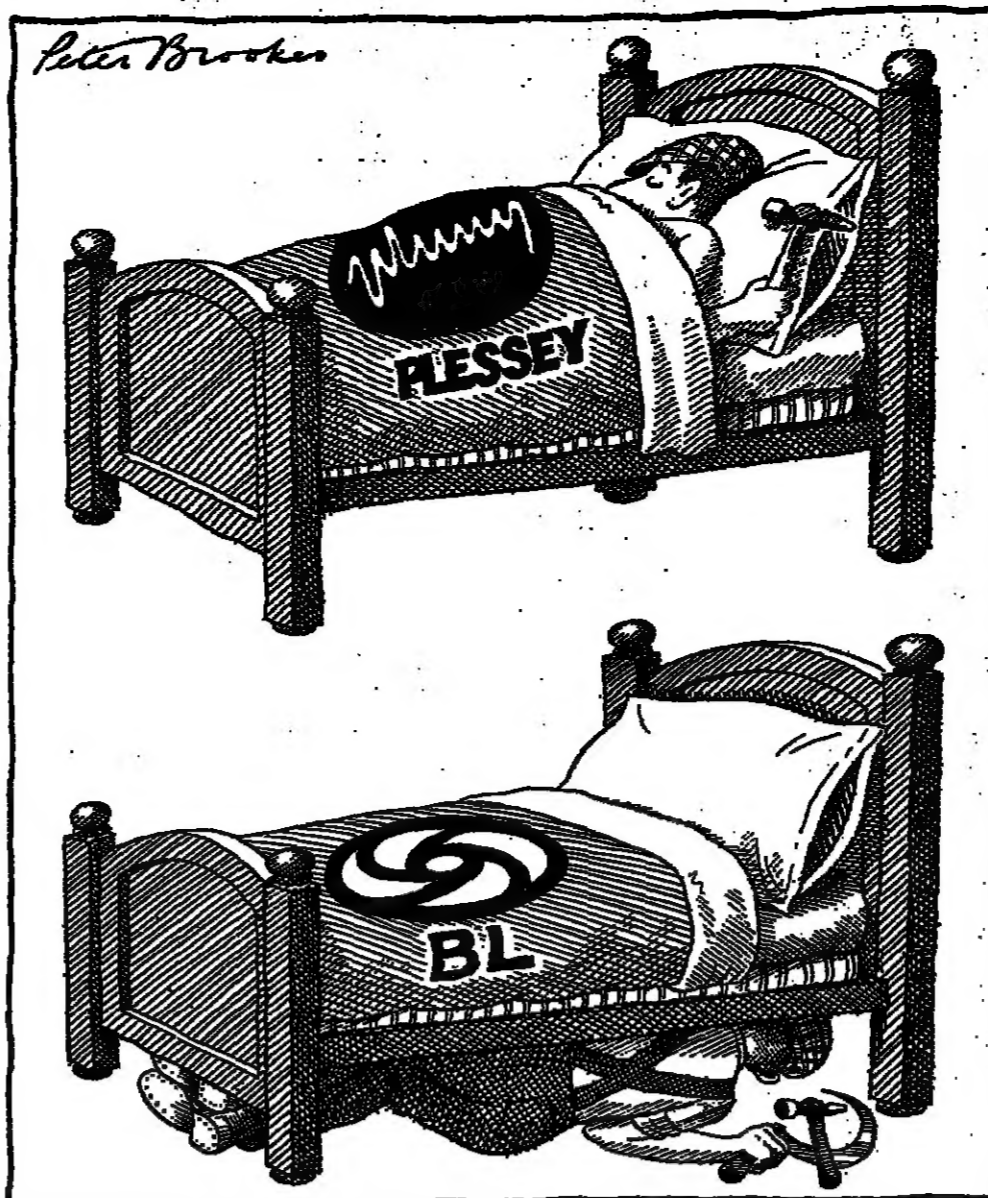
Private managing agents

helping to operate the scheme are already claiming it is a success. Trans Promotions, of Guildford, reported yesterday that it had placed 100 young people with firms in Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex. It said that 70 of the school-leavers had been offered permanent jobs by the end of the year.

But Mrs Josiane Wileman, the company's managing director, was critical about government presentation of the training scheme. "Unfortunately there are still too many young people who doubt seem to have any idea just what opportunities are being offered to them through the scheme."

The commission rejected suggestions that the scheme had been under-published. The commission has spent more than £1.5m on national and regional advertising. Young people had also been told about the opportunities by the schools careers officers and further information was available at Job Centres.

The scheme guarantees school-leavers a foundation year of training, education and work experience, including a minimum of 13 weeks off-the-job education and training. Although it has the official blessing of the TUC,



Hot-beds
Infiltration of industry

Leftist moles 'active for years'

By John Witherow

The planting of far leftists in key industries to infiltrate trade unions and foment unrest has been going on for many years, according to a former Trotskyist leader.

Mr Roger Reswell, one-time industrial organizer for the Socialist Workers Party who is now a Social Democrat, wrote a pamphlet last year, *Dealing With The Marxist Threat To Industry*.

In it he said: "Sometimes ex-students are told to apply for jobs in selected companies - car factories have always been a prime target for this kind of infiltration. On other occasions foremen are used to give jobs to party members."

His experience was reinforced by a former leader of the International Marxist Group, which has reformed as

the Socialist League and is said to be responsible for encouraging 13 of its members to falsify job applications to BL's Cowley plant. He said yesterday that the IMG had several members at Cowley during the 1970s, although they had been recruited internally rather than planted.

The IMG emerged in the heady days of the 1960s as a small, tightly-knit revolutionary party.

The IMG, which was then led by Tariq Ali, continued to build up a following throughout the 1970s in universities and polytechnics at the expense of the Communist Party.

It had fewer than a thousand members, but the message was spread through a succession of newspapers,

Black Dwarf, *Red Mole* and *Red Weekly*.

The combined membership of the far left groups, including the Socialist Workers Party and Workers Revolutionary Party, is estimated at between 6,000 and 10,000.

Mr Frank Ward, public information officer for the Labour Party, said on BBC radio yesterday: "All through the history of the Trotskyist movements there has been this idea of the factory being the power unit, because if you stop the factory you can use it as a lever to change society."

The Socialist League, the SWP and the WRP, unlike the Militant Tendency, have shown little interest in infiltrating the Labour Party. They believe change can only come through revolution.

Murdered man found near M6

A murder inquiry was launched yesterday after a body was found in a country near Holme, Cumbria.

The victim, a man aged between 30 and 35, had been battered to death and trussed up in a sleeping bag with plastic bags over his head and feet. The Police believe the man could have been murdered anywhere in the country and dumped and the spot, which is near the M6. He is described as 5ft 11in tall, weighing 11 stone, with light brown hair. He was wearing dark brown trousers, commando type boots and a check shirt.

Scrubland fires hit Scotland

Tydsie scrub fire brigade was last night fighting to control two large scrubland fires between Aberfeldy and Perth.

A blaze in the Amulree area had closed a stretch of the A826 road for two days, and was advancing on a 13-mile front, destroying more than 30 square miles of deep heather.

At Bridge of Cally another fire was threatening two large forests and had destroyed 13 square miles of scrubland.

Denning praises landscape idea

A council which has been in dispute with Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, about a wall he had built, has suggested it should come down and that the area should be landscaped.

Lord Denning built the wall around part of his home which is near Whitechurch Town Hall in Hampshire. He said Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's suggestion was a good idea.

Fires charge

A man is to appear in court in Manchester today in connexion with fires at two nightclubs, a furniture store, a bank and a warehouse in the city centre on Saturday.

Tebbit is tipped as chairman

By Our Political Reporter

Mr Norman Tebbit is being increasingly talked of in Conservative circles as a possible successor as party chairman to Mr Cecil Parkinson, who is expected to step down after the Tory conference in the autumn.

Mr Tebbit, who is believed by MPs to be Mrs Margaret Thatcher's favourite, is still expected to remain Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Parkinson succeeded Lord Thorneycroft as chairman in September, 1981. He was rewarded for the key role he played in creating an election-winning machine with the post of Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in the post-election Cabinet reshuffle.

It was always expected that he would serve for two years, like his predecessors. (Although Lord Thorneycroft held the post from 1975 to 1981.)

Other candidates for the chairmanship are believed to be Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, and Mr Ian Gow, Mrs Thatcher's parliamentary private secretary during the last Parliament, who became Minister for Housing and Construction after the election.

Mr Michael Spicer, the deputy chairman, is not out of the running, but the fact that he is little known outside Westminster and has no ministerial experience might count against him. Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, is said to be a good outside bet.

However, some MPs believe that rather than appointing Mr Tebbit now, Mrs Thatcher might prefer to appoint another candidate for the next two or three years and then bring him in to prepare for the next general election.

The chairman before Lord Thorneycroft was Lord Whitelaw, Lord Carington, Mr Peter Thomas and Lord Barber.

'Poor law medicine returning'

Labour's health spokesman accused the Government yesterday of returning to the medicine of the Poor Law, after reports that patients are being nursed and treated in corridors at a leading teaching hospital.

Mrs Gwyneth Duwoody, a candidate for Labour's deputy leadership, called for a statement by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, on allegations in The Sunday Times yesterday about the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

The newspaper quoted the report of an internal working party which said that patients were frequently looked after for long periods on trolleys in corridors in the hospital's accident and emergency department. Other emergency patients were being turned away because of lack of beds, the report said.

Consultants often sent "scouts" round the wards to find vacant beds for new patients, the newspaper said.

The local community health council had claimed that some inpatients were moved into chairs while their beds were used for day-surgery cases.

Mrs Duwoody said: "I understand that the local health authority is at present engaged in a £6,700,000 package of cuts in the Liverpool district which will even further increase the pressure on beds this hard pressed area."

Supergrasses have given the

French charge three after arms find

By Roger Beardwood

A man from the Irish Republic was charged in Le Havre, Normandy, yesterday with illegally transporting weapons and ammunition. He was remanded in custody to Rouen Prison.

Michael Christopher Macdonald, aged 27, from Dundalk, co Louth, was arrested in the Le Havre dock area on Friday. Two French citizens have been charged with complicity.

French police seized what one source described as "a veritable arsenal" of arms, ammunition and explosives hidden in a lorry that was waiting for a ferry from Le Havre to the Irish Republic.

The haul included 28 handguns, 12,000 rounds of ammunition, 100 magazines for Kalashnikov rifles, 22lb of explosives, 150 detonators, 50 yards of fuse and some grenades.

All were hidden in a false fuel tank in a Volvo lorry, reported to have been carrying 26 tons of electro-mechanical components and assemblies addressed to a firm in Northern Ireland.

Security forces in Ulster believe that both the Provisional IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army's effectiveness has been limited by a series of arms and ammunition finds during the past 12 months (Richard Ford writes from Belfast).

Supergrasses have given the

police details of terrorist supply routes from the Continent and the US.

Security forces yesterday continued searching for three INLA terrorists who escaped after two colleagues were shot dead in a gun battle with the police in co Tyrone on Saturday.

The men who died when an INLA ambush in a security check point in Dungannon went wrong were James Mallon, aged 27, from Keady, co Armagh, and Brendan Convery, aged 25, from Maghera, co Londonderry. Both men were known to the Royal Ulster Constabulary and had been living across the border in Dundalk for some time.

Blood stains in the back of the car, which later crashed, indicated that two other gunmen involved in the attack may have been wounded. The police are also seeking the car's driver. The heavy exchange of fire also injured a police constable and a man aged 67.

There was speculation that Mr Dominic McGlinchey, once described as "the most wanted man in Ireland", may have been involved in the incident.

A motor mechanic, aged 29, from Londonderry, has been on the run since he jumped bail in the republic last year and is wanted by detectives on both sides of the border.

Three die in plastic tent blaze

A mother and her two children were killed and two girls were seriously burnt in a holiday camp fire in Co Durham yesterday. Mrs Norma Johnson, aged 23, a divorcee, and her daughter Tracy, aged five, died in their blazing tent at Witton Castle leisure park, three miles from their home in Blyth Avenue, St Helens, Auckland. Her son Brian, aged two, died hours later in the burns unit at Shotley Bridge Hospital, near Consett.

Mrs Johnson's sister, Susan, aged 14, and her friend Jane Gray, aged 12, also of Blyth Avenue, were badly burnt. They were said to be critically ill in the same burns unit.

Mother and daughter died when a fierce blaze ripped through their plastic tent in seconds on the last night of their six-day holiday.

It was the first holiday Mrs Johnson and her children had ever had together and was arranged through the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children which provided the tent. The management at the leisure park reduced their ground rent specially to help them.

Experts were trying last night to determine the cause of the fire which may have been started by a cigarette.

The party apparently did not know how to light a hurricane lamp which was lent to them by another camper.

Jenkin faces revolt by Tories over rate ceiling plan

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government's plan to curb big spending local authorities by "capping" the rates will face strong opposition from Conservative backbenchers when the Commons returns in the autumn.

MPs are predicting a repeat of events in late 1981 when Conservative MPs and local authority associations forced Mr Michael Heseltine, who was then Secretary of State for the Environment, to drop legislation which would make councils hold referendums on ratepayers when they wanted to put up rates beyond a centrally-fixed limit.

Some MPs, angry that the Government published its White Paper a few days after Parliament rose for the summer recess, are to seek an early meeting with Mr Patrick Jenkin, the present Secretary of State for the Environment, to warn him that the Bill expected early next year to implement the proposals will have a tough passage because it represents an unwarranted interference with local democracy.

The publication of the proposals while MPs are away from Westminster means the opponents have not yet organized a campaign of action or counted heads for any potential rebellion. But one senior Conservative said yesterday: "The Government could quite easily get a bloody nose on this one."

The Government plans to impose a rates ceiling on consistently high spending councils from April, 1985, and to fix a maximum for every council in England and Wales.

The Conservative controlled associations of both county and district councils have pledged their outright opposition, a factor which weighs heavily with MPs and, more particularly, with Conservative peers when the Bill gets to the Lords.

Mr Anthony Beaumont, Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Self Oak, a long-time critic of the Government's failure to reform the rates, said yesterday: "I was not elected to dispense with another form of democracy. My own government has brought in three local government measures which have had one unique quality: they have united Labour and Conservative against them."

Conservative MPs have urged the Government not to give Mr Kenneth Livingston, the Greater London Council leader, an extra year in office, and have proposed the appointment of commissioners to run the council for the last year of its life. (Our Political Staff writes.) Because the GLC is due to be abolished by 1986, the MPs fear that the Government may extend its present term by a year rather than hold the next GLC elections, which are scheduled for 1985.

The London MPs have urged Mr Jenkin to appoint a commissioner from each of the 32 London boroughs to run the GLC during its last year.

Mr John Wheeler, MP for Westminster North, said yesterday: "There is nothing very novel in this. The boroughs are the people who will anyway be taking over."

Local councils 'lose' nearly £200m

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

Councillors and officials have "lost" nearly £200m of public money, according to a study by a leading accountant. After examining councils' accounts, Mr Clive Sparrow, a consultant with Deloitte Haskins and Sells, found that £191.5m was simply put down to general administration, implying that councils had only spent the money where it counted.

He asked "whether, in some local authorities, the control exercised by elected members and senior officers over their central departments is effective."

It seems that several councils, mostly Labour controlled, are unable to break down their spending on white-collar clerical staff, lawyers and administrators. The accounts show the money is being spent, but Mr Sparrow says, no one is sure where it goes.

In an article in the journal *Public Finance and Accountancy*, Mr Sparrow asks: "Is the failure to apportion general administration costs to services symptomatic of inadequate management information?"

The councils with, apparently, least control over their white-collar staffs include several of the Labour authorities identified as "over-spenders" by the Government.

Mr Sparrow urged these councils to follow guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

	£m	% of total spending
GLC	14.3	3.2
Southwark	9.8	12.8
Liverpool	8.6	3.5
Bristol	8.6	7.9
Two Herts	5.3	10.2
Edinburgh	4.7	8.1
Salford	4.6	4.9
Greenwich	2.9	5.9
Wirral	2.7	2.5
Exeter	2.7	2.8

*Wirral is Conservative controlled; the rest Labour.

Chinese told of illegal trade in panda skins

By Nicholas Timmins

The Chinese Embassy in London had been given a report which strongly suggests that there is an illegal trade in the skins of giant pandas, in spite of the lengths to which the Chinese have gone to protect the animals.

The trade in one of the world's most threatened species, came to light after a letter sent to the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery from Taiwan offering panda skins for sale was passed to the Flora and Fauna Preservation Society.

The society's executive secretary, Mr John Burton, then wrote to Mr Maurice Wang of the Ruyi Pin Trading Company in Taiwan, posing as the director of an animal trading company.

He was told that a Japanese collector had paid £24,000 for a skin and that two more were available at £17,000 each. Mr Burton got in touch with The Sunday Times whose correspondent in Tokyo was shown two skins which were for sale.

The newspaper and the society have passed the details to the Chinese Embassy which met a delegation led by Sir Peter Scott, the Preservation Society's chairman, last week.

Mr Burton said the embassy was clearly taking the matter "very, very seriously." Only about 1,000 pandas are thought to survive in the wild in China and they are threatened by a shortage of their staple diet, bamboo. Mr Burton said the society had no idea before the letter reached them that panda skins were being traded. From photographs and descriptions of the skins, he said, he was reasonably confident that the skins were genuine.

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Indian master takes lead in chess championship

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Southampton

At the end of round six in the Grieverson Grant British Chess Championships at the King George V College in Southampton, the Indian master, Thipsay was in the lead with five points followed by Bradbury, Johnson, J. Littlewood, Mestel and Ravikumar all of whom have four-and-a-half points.

If Jonathan Spillman wins his adjourned game against Horner then he will also have four-and-a-half points.

The competition is slightly more than half way through so every round is of vital importance, hence the caution of the leaders in this round on Saturday. Thipsay drew with John Littlewood in 14 moves and Johnson in even shorter style in 11 moves. There was rather more play in the Mestel-Pritchett game but that too was drawn, after 26 moves.

Horner and Spillman had a

cut and thrust game which was adjourned with Spillman enjoying the material advantage for queen for rook and bishop.

Other results in round six: Horner v Spillman, 1-0; Bradbury v Johnson, 1-0; Mestel v Ravikumar, 1-0; Littlewood v Thipsay, 1-0; Spillman v Horner, 1-0; Johnson v Bradbury, 1-0; Thipsay v Littlewood, 1-0; Ravikumar v Mestel, 1-0; Mestel v Johnson, 1-0; Bradbury v Spillman, 1-0; Johnson v Horner, 1-0; Thipsay v Bradbury, 1-0; Littlewood v Mestel, 1-0; Ravikumar v Johnson, 1-0; Mestel v Thipsay, 1-0; Johnson v Littlewood, 1-0; Bradbury v Ravikumar, 1-0; Spillman v Mestel, 1-0; Horner v Thipsay, 1-0; Johnson v Bradbury, 1-0; Thipsay v Johnson, 1-0; Littlewood v Bradbury, 1-0; Ravikumar v Mestel, 1-0; Mestel v Johnson, 1-0; Bradbury v Spillman, 1-0; Johnson v Horner, 1-0; Thipsay v Bradbury, 1-0; Littlewood v Mestel, 1-0; Ravikumar v Johnson, 1-0; Mestel v Thipsay, 1-0; Johnson v Littlewood, 1-0; Bradbury v Ravikumar, 1-0; Spillman v Mestel, 1-0; Horner v Thipsay, 1-0; Johnson v Bradbury, 1-0; Thipsay v Johnson, 1-0; Littlewood v Bradbury, 1-0; Ravikumar v Mestel, 1-0; Mestel v Johnson, 1-0; 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Police arm grip blamed for man's death in struggle with officers

By a Staff Reporter

Police attempts to restrain Mr James Davey during questioning were responsible for his death after a struggle at a Coventry police station, according to an independent report on the incident.

Dr Ernest Milford Ward, of Leicester, a retired pathologist, states that the arm grip officers used to overcome Mr Davey's struggles had been banned in the United States and should not have been used in Britain. But he also says that the police were "darned unlucky" that their actions ended in Mr Davey's death.

Mr Davey, aged 40, collapsed on March 11 when the police, who said they thought he was about to head-butt them, fell on him with one officer holding him round the throat. His heart stopped during the struggle, and he was taken to Coventry and Warwick Hospital where he was put on a life-support system, but doctors declared him clinically dead and the system was switched off after 11 days.

Mr Davey had been held in custody for 17 hours while the police tried to persuade him to go to London to answer questions about the shooting of Mr Patrick O'Nione outside a dockland wine bar.

Dr Milford Ward, who examined Mr Davey's body on April 17 and spoke to Coventry



Mr James Davey: 'Highly volatile'.

police about the struggle, said yesterday that Mr Davey had died because of the excited state he was in. "This chap was grossly over-excited, had been chain smoking and was in a highly volatile state."

"When the struggle took place, a policeman grabbed him from behind, put his left arm around his neck with his left hand on his right shoulder. In order to restrain him, he pulled him back on his knee and Davey then fell forward. The

policeman then fell on top of him.

"According to my information, he could have got brain damage from that injury because of the anoxia (lack of oxygen). This grip has been banned by the American police because it is so dangerous, and it should be banned here."

A report on Mr Davey's death was compiled by Mr Charles Horan, Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) of Greater Manchester Police, and sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who is considering whether charges should be brought against police officers. Dr Milford Ward said he would not recommend such action.

"I think the police were darned unlucky. Unfortunately they started off a chain reaction by restricting blood to the brain, and after that, nothing was going to stop him dying," he said.

Dr Milford Ward said he was acting on behalf of Mr Davey's family, but was totally independent. "Everybody else ducked it because it was so controversial, people just did not want to get involved," he said.

The inquest on Mr Davey stands adjourned.



London Tamils pray for families in Sri Lanka

Tamils prayed and fasted at the Britannia Hindu Temple in Highgate Hill, north London, yesterday for the welfare of Tamils in Sri Lanka after the recent racial riots in the island. The half-day fast was also to raise money for the 130,000 refugees who fled their homes in the riots in which the official death toll is put at 350 and in which 20,000 Tamil businesses were attacked or destroyed (Nicholas Timmins writes).

The special ceremony was conducted by six priests with offerings of food, flowers and fire to the ancient Tamil warrior god Murugan. Hindu leaders among the Tamil community are writing to Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and to President Junius Jayewardene, calling for an end to the "genocide". There are an estimated

35,000 Tamils in Great Britain, concentrated in and around London, most of whom still have close family links with Sri Lanka. Many arrived in the 1960s and early 1970s after previous riots and after the introduction of regulations that would have compelled English speaking Tamils in the professions to learn Sinhalese in order to work.

In Britain, many have prospered. The temple is in the middle of a £200,000 conversion programme with money raised in the Tamil community. Originally a church, the building was for many years a synagogue until it was burnt out in the 1970s. With much of the local Jewish community having moved away, the building was taken over by the Tamils and decoration is to start soon (Photographs: Tony Weaver).

Leaders meet, page 4

Heatwave kills hundreds of birds

By a Staff Reporter

The hot weather has killed many water-based birds in several parts of Britain. The sun and the lack of rain have caused the spread of botulism, which attacks their nervous systems.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday that it had been a very bad year for some birds. Last week more than 100 wildfowl at the Attenborough Nature Reserve, Nottingham, became the latest casualties of Britain's hottest summer since 1976.

Similar incidents have been reported by the Society in Norfolk and in Regent's Park, central London. On the boating lake in Regent's Park about 200 ducks and swans have died and in Norfolk about 130 birds, including gulls, mallards, geese and coots have perished.

Mr Tim Stowe of the society explained that botulism causes paralysis which affects the birds' wings, necks and legs and they waste away through their inability to feed and water.

He said that the affected birds are those which live in normally wet areas with fairly dense vegetation. They become breeding grounds for botulism when the water table is lowered.

The Thames estuary, Mersey estuary, Firth of Forth and parts of Norfolk, where shallow water can be found close to effluent pipes and rubbish tips, are bad areas for botulism.

While Britain's birdlife is suffering, the heat has proved a blessing to other wildlife. The Royal Society for Nature Conservation notes that there have been far more butterflies than usual. Swarms of clouded yellows, painted ladies, red admirals, peacocks and tortoiseshells have been seen throughout the countryside.

Sea swimmers have been stung by Portuguese man o' war jellyfish, which have drifted into British waters. Large numbers of shark have been seen off the Dorset and Devon coasts. A 24ft basking shark was seen in a Dorset bay.

One benefit of a hot summer is that many sub-tropical birds are attracted to British shores. For the first time in 40 years a black-winged stilt was spotted on a reserve in East Anglia.

Wild geese invading farms in search of food are damaging crops in East Anglia, according to the Country Landowners' Association.

Landowners in Norfolk say that geese have become "an absolute menace" to winter cereals, grass and vegetables. They are demanding a cull.

Boy, 9, has marrow transplant

A boy aged nine who has leukaemia was in a satisfactory condition in a London hospital yesterday after a seven-hour bone marrow transfusion.

Robert Allen received the marrow from the hip bone of his brother David, aged 16, in an operation on Saturday night at the Westminster Children's Hospital.

His parents travelled from the family home in Withybed Lane, Inkberrow, near Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, to be at his bedside.

The disease was diagnosed when Robert was 18 months old. He has twice undergone lengthy periods of drug treatment but each time suffered a relapse.

Doctors had said that his



Robert Allen with his brother David.

long-term chances of survival were low without the marrow transplant, which now gives him a 50 per cent chance.

The hospital said yesterday: "The operation went very smoothly and Robert is quite satisfactory. But it will be at least two weeks before we have any definite indication of whether the operation has been completely successful."

All members of the family underwent tests to see who would be most suitable for the transfusion.

TV-am viewers top million mark

By Kenneth Gosling

Roland Rat has been nibbling away at the BBC breakfast television viewing figures giving TV-am, the commercial company, a lead over the corporation for the first time since the two joined battle six months ago.

As well as TV-am's popular cartoon character which hoists its ratings to more than a million at 9am every weekday, against the BBC's best of 900,000 and worst, on Mondays, of 400,000, Diana Dors's weekly slimming classes just before 9am on Fridays are also breaking the million-viewer barrier. At earlier times on weekdays the BBC still stays ahead, although it admitted

yesterday that the once yawning gap had now narrowed.

The BBC attributed TV-am's success to school holiday programming and to the extra time it has after nine o'clock. The BBC figures, a spokesman said, had not gone down as dramatically as TV-am's had gone up.

Nevertheless, TV-am has put on 700,000 viewers in a fortnight. Figures released by the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board for the week ended August 7 show that the TV-am audience was never less than 600,000 while on one occasion, 9am on Monday that week, the BBC had only 400,000.

Breakfast viewing figures, week ending August 7, broken down in 15-minute segments:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8.15	1m	7m	1m	1m	1m	1m
8.30	1m	7m	1m	1m	1m	1m
8.45	1m	7m	1m	1m	1m	1m
9.00	1m	7m	1m	1m	1m	1m
9.15	1m	7m	1m	1m	1m	1m
9.30	1m	7m	1m	1m	1m	1m
9.45	1m	7m	1m	1m	1m	1m
10.00	1m	7m	1m	1m	1m	1m

Survey scheme launched to help flat-buyers

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

A new deal for flat buyers is launched today. It aims to give a prompt and economical survey of a flat and professional advice on its value.

The Flat Buyers' Report and Valuation Scheme is being established by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. It follows the institution's House Buyers' Report and Valuation Scheme launched two years ago.

Under the new scheme, buyers will be able to receive an easily understood report on the state of repair of the flat and other parts of the building in which some owners may share responsibility for repairs.

The report will apply to both converted flats and those in purpose-built blocks. Apart from examining the roof of the building, where accessible, chartered surveyors will inspect

shared entrances and other common parts such as stairways. The report will also cover such aspects as central services, like heating and water supply, as well as the condition of the flat itself.

Included in the report will be comment on management of the block. A check list of questions has been produced which the buyer should ask his solicitor covering such items as the terms of repair and maintenance agreement and responsibility for the replacement of lifts, and other service installations.

The cost of the service, which will include a market valuation, will vary according to the age, size, condition and price of the property. As with any other type of survey, it will probably be useful for buyers to shop around among chartered surveyors.

Death Row wife's appeal for life

By Richard Evans

A British woman sentenced to hang in South Africa for the murder of her husband will have her appeal against conviction and sentence heard tomorrow, when attempts will probably be made to introduce new evidence.

Maureen Smith, aged 39, will remain in her Death Row cell in Pretoria's maximum security jail while five Appeal Court judges consider her case in Bloemfontein, 250 miles away.

The hearing is expected to last two days and the result should be announced within a week. A British consular official is expected to attend the appeal.

Mrs Smith, born in east London, emigrated to South Africa in 1975 shortly after marrying her third husband, Mr Roger Smith, in Brentwood, Essex. Mr Smith, a quantity surveyor, was stabbed to death in the back garden of their Johannesburg home last July.

Mrs Smith was sentenced to death after the court was told that she and other members of her family had spent months plotting her husband's death because he refused to give her a divorce.

Mrs Smith's chauffeur, Jack Ramogale, and David Magumi, who killed Mr Smith, were also sentenced to hang. Ramogale, aged 25, was said to have been offered 500 rand (£275) by Mrs Smith to find a killer, and Magumi,



Maureen Smith: New evidence.

aged 35, was promised 10,000 rand (£5,500) for the killing. Their appeals against sentence will also be heard tomorrow.

Mrs Smith, who has spent 265 days in prison awaiting tomorrow's appeal, will be represented by Mr Douglas Shaw, QC, one of South Africa's leading lawyers. He is likely to seek leave to introduce new evidence from statements made in London by Mrs Smith's father, Mr Harry Mullucks.

It was alleged during the trial that Mr Mullucks, an East Ham insurance assessor, had suggested sending "heavies" from England to kill Mr Smith. Mr Mullucks, aged 71, has made sworn affidavits detailing his knowledge and involvement in events prior to Mr Smith's death.

If the court agrees to receive new evidence it will probably authorize a special hearing in London where Mr Mullucks would give evidence and face cross-examination. Mr Mullucks had wanted to fly to South Africa to give evidence at his daughter's trial, but he was refused immunity from possible prosecution.

Mr Mullucks said: "Maureen is bearing up and she is in a determined mood. I am praying and hoping the five judges of the Appeal Court extend to my daughter compassion and understanding."

"I believe her to be innocent and that she had no knowledge of what was to happen on the evening in question."

Mr Duncan Downes, a Durban-based solicitor, saw Mrs Smith on Friday. He said afterwards: "She is very anxious, very nervous and very concerned. Her thinking on all matters is not perfectly coherent. She has been under enormous strain, not only because of her sentence, but the strain of being where she is is enormous."

Mr Downes added that Mrs Smith's prospects in the appeal were "sound".

Animal gift by Herriot character

Miss Marjorie Warner, who became one of the writer James Herriot's favourite characters, left most of her £90,270 estate to Help The Aged and other charities for the old and needy.

Miss Warner, who was a model for his character Mrs Pumphrey, also left £500 each to the Blue Cross Animal Hospital and the Performing Animals Defence League.

Her Pekinese dog Tricky Woo also inspired a character in Mr Herriot's books, which were later made into the television series *All Creatures Great And Small*.

Miss Warner lived in Sowerby near Thirsk, North Yorkshire, where Mr Herriot was a veterinary surgeon for many years. Then she moved to Marine Parade, Saltburn, Cleveland, where she died in May, aged 86.

Her funeral in Sowerby was attended by Mr Herriot. Miss Warner, who enjoyed horseracing and had a 10p bet every day, also left £100 to the Injured Jockeys Fund.

Other Wills, page 12

Astor in fight over sculptures

Sevenoaks District Council want Lord Astor to return 26 sculptures which it claims were removed without listed building consent from Hever Castle, his former home, at Edenbridge, Kent.

The sculptures were in Hever's Italian Gardens, which are included in the Department of the Environment's list of Grade 2 buildings of architectural and historical interest. They were sold at Sotheby's last month for £276,000. Lord Astor says they were his own personal property.

Architects earn 8.4% more

Architects' earnings in Britain increased in real terms in the year ended on April 1 by 8.4 per cent.

The Royal Institute of British Architects says average earnings of architects in full-time employment rose from £11,066 in 1982 to £12,000 in 1983. Principal architects' earnings went up by 6.4 per cent to £13,000, salaried architects by 8.9 per cent to £9,413 and local authority architects by 7.8 per cent to £12,338.

Crash landings at balloon event

Police and fire services were flooded with emergency calls yesterday as dozens of hot air balloons crash landed in Bristol, Avon, because of a lack of wind.

There were no reported injuries. One balloon landed outside a local radio station, another outside the Mansion House. Yet another landed in front of clergy as they left Bristol Cathedral after the morning service. Fifty-six balloons were taking part in the annual Bristol Balloon Fiesta.

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Detection and treatment of alcoholic doctors 'inadequate'

by Joanna Lyall

Procedures for identifying and treating doctors who are alcoholic, mentally ill or addicted to drugs are inadequate and represent only a "last ditch effort for a man who has gone overboard", according to a member of the General Medical Council's health committee.

"If the profession wishes to prevent disasters from occurring, clearly a means has to be found to deal with these problems earlier than we do at present", Dr Anthony Allibone says.

Commenting on the council's system for sick doctors in the *Journal of the Society of Administrators of Family Practitioner Services*, Dr Allibone, a general practitioner in Norfolk, says that the procedures help only "a tiny if tragic section of the profession". More local initiatives are needed for earlier detection of sickness among doctors, he says.

In August 1980 the GMC established a health committee and inaugurated a system designed to protect the public by providing early detection of sick doctors in a supportive rather than punitive atmosphere.

Previously doctors impaired by alcoholism, drug addiction or mental illness came to the council's attention only when they appeared before the disciplinary committee when they were liable to be suspended from practice or struck off the register.

The present system allows for sick doctors to have their fitness to practice assessed outside the disciplinary machinery of the GMC. Cases are considered by a "screener" who may ask the doctor to undergo a medical examination and then perhaps accept some limitations, such as not prescribing certain drugs or not working alone. If the examiner's recommendations are rejected, the doctor is referred to the health committee which can suspend him for a maximum of 12 months.

started, 142 doctors have been

Hypnotized driver helps murder hunt

The examination under hypnosis of a lorry driver who may have seen Caroline Hogg being driven out of Scotland by her murderer was moderately successful, the police said yesterday.

Mr John Flinn, from Edinburgh, was returning from holiday when his car was almost involved in a collision with a pale blue Cortina five miles north of Coldstream on the A697 on the evening of July 8, an hour and a half after Caroline, aged five, was last seen on the Promenade near her home in Portobello, Edinburgh.

Mr Flinn was hypnotized on Saturday under conditions laid down by the Crown Office.

Chief Inspector David Garbutt, of Lothian and Borders police, said yesterday that Mr Flinn had information about the Cortina.

The search for the killer has spread to Italy. Witnesses had spoken of a "foreign looking woman" taking films.

The names and addresses of a group of Italians who stayed in Edinburgh that night were obtained from a hotel register.

The Italian police have traced the tourists and the murder squad is now waiting for seven cine films and one video film to arrive.

Woman 'hit by police' to get cash

From Our Correspondent Liverpool

Police are believed to have offered "substantial" compensation to a great grandmother who was allegedly beaten by a constable in March.

Mrs Harriet Mellor, aged 73, says she has accepted a four-figure out-of-court settlement from Merseyside Police after an officer allegedly smashed her front door, then punched and slapped her face before forcing her into a Panda car.

The officer was one of two who were looking for her daughter, Mrs Mellor says she was held in a police station for half an hour before being allowed hospital treatment for cuts and bruises.

Mrs Mellor of Mason Street, Edge Hill, Liverpool, said yesterday that she was delighted that the matter had been resolved. "It was a terrifying ordeal and I am glad it is now all over. The money is some consolation, but it is not everything."

Solicitors acting for Mrs Mellor have filed a formal complaint against the two officers, both believed to be aged 22 and based at Wavertree Road police station, Liverpool.

Merseyside Police said: "We are investigating a complaint against two police officers".

Daily Mail is censured again on Ripper case

The Press Council censured the *Daily Mail* today for suppressing facts during its inquiry into press conduct in the case of the Yorkshire Ripper, Peter Sutcliffe.

Its finding was: "In its general report on press conduct in the Sutcliffe case, the Press Council upheld a complaint by Mrs Doreen Hill that the *Daily Mail* broke the council's declaration about payments to potential witnesses by making a contract to pay £5,000 to Mr John Sutcliffe, who could reasonably have been expected to have been called as a witness at his son's trial for murder."

The Press Council reopened its inquiry after further information became available after its main report was published in February. The council said that then it had been hampered in considering complaints by Mrs Doreen Hill, whose daughter Jacqueline was the last of the 13 murder victims, by the *Daily Mail* failing to disclose relevant material.

The council said that there had been nothing wrong in the *Daily Mail* having arranged accommodation for Mr John Sutcliffe and his daughters. There was a point at which accommodation and entertaining people on a lavish scale would breach the declaration. But in this instance that was not the case.

The *Daily Mail*, however, did not disclose that Mr Sutcliffe

Russians adamant over boy 'defector'

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The Soviet Embassy in Washington remained adamant over the weekend that it would not allow US officials to interview a Russian teenager who apparently wants to defect.

The diplomatic rumpus intensified rapidly as FBI and Secret Service agents positioned themselves ostentatiously outside the Soviet Embassy. Agents were also stationed outside a Russian residential compound in north-west Washington.

A collection of yellow brick buildings surrounded by a fence and controlled by an electronic gate.

As cars passed in and out agents looked into back seats and were particularly interested in unmarked vans with heavily tinted windows that frequently passed to and fro.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) ordered all airlines not to allow the boy on board. "We have taken every step that we can to prevent him surreptitiously leaving the country," it said.

Diplomatic tension was heightened when FBI agents approached the teenage son of a Soviet journalist at Dulles Airport Washington, believing that he might be Andrei Berezhkov, aged 16 son of the first secretary at the Soviet Embassy.

Last Thursday the *New York Times* and the White House received a letter purporting to be signed by the boy. The letter to the newspaper said: "I hate my country and its rules and I love your country".

According to the Russians, the agents who approached the Soviet journalist's son urged the boy not to leave. It was only when he convinced them that his only wish was to return to the Soviet Union that was permitted to proceed. The Soviet Embassy said a "provocation campaign" was being waged against Soviet representatives in Washington.

Later Mr Victor Isakov, a high-ranking Soviet Embassy official appeared on television and accused the Americans of a gross violation of international law "saying that such an attitude 'could bring negative consequences for all the sides'".

The Berezhkov family has been in Washington for the summer, and was due to be repatriated within a month. They have been living in a suburban block of flats in Maryland, but have not been home since the affair began.

Unions court Mondale, the workers' friend

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The United States labour movement, after more than a decade of frustration in mainstream politics, looks set to throw its weight behind Mr Walter Mondale.

On a visit to Las Vegas, Mrs Mondale, a senior aide in the Glenn camp said Senator Glenn would not renounce his presidential nomination.

He has been assiduous in becoming a friend of labour and, in return, has been treated to much courting from the wealthy AFL-CIO, which has refurbished its political machinery in an attempt to recapture the old days of political influence.

Early in October, 3,000 delegates will gather in Florida to determine their presidential choice, and all six Democratic contenders await the outcome with great interest. The labour movement's other principal ally, Mr Alan Cranston, the Democratic presidential candidate from California, has opened an intensive drive to turn the tide against Mr Mondale but the odds are not with him.

The federation's conference was originally scheduled for December. Its shift to October gives a distinct advantage to Mr Mondale because it provides less time to his rivals to start campaigns in the unions.

It might have been brought forward even earlier but October was chosen mainly out of deference to the Cranston camp, which said it needed more time to prove Mr Cranston's record as a friend of labour.

Mr Cranston acknowledged that the timing of the AFL-CIO conference was a boost to the Mondale campaign, but neither he nor Senator John Glenn, another leading contender, has any inclination to respond with anti-union campaigns.

President Moi assured Asians and other minorities yesterday that Kenya would remain a plural society. He called on the country's large Asian business community to ignore "prophecies of doom" who discouraged investment by suggesting that Kenya was politically unstable or economically mismanaged.

More than 1,000 Asians, including many prominent business and professional men and women, called on President Moi at his home at Kabarak, 200 miles north-west of here, to declare their loyalty and their support for his policies. He presented membership certificates for the ruling Kenya African National Union to 900 of them.

There are about 80,000 Asians in Kenya. The community has played a leading role in business, industry and commerce, as well as in the professions. Its confidence suffered when many Asian businesses and homes were looted during last year's attempted coup, but much of the lost confidence has returned with Kenya's quick recovery.

Yesterday's demonstration was by the largest group yet to call on President Moi at his home.

Mr Mondale: Enjoys AFL-CIO backing.

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Anxiety grows in the allies' lake

In the first of a two-part series on Nato's responsibilities in the Mediterranean, RODNEY COWTON, Defence Correspondent, examines the balance of naval power.

It is part of today's conventional wisdom that if there should ever be another European war it would be unlikely to begin with a frontal assault through Germany. It would be more likely to arise out of a localized conflict outside the European heartlands which, once out of control, would draw in the superpowers.

The perpetual turmoil around Lebanon and Israel and the present tensions with Libya would ensure that the Middle East would come high on anyone's list of areas which are sufficiently combustible to carry in them the risk of such an escalation. This is one of several factors which are giving rise to increasing anxiety among those who are responsible for Nato's defences in the Mediterranean area.

Twenty years ago the Mediterranean was seen very much as a Nato lake, and even today as our table shows, the West has a heavy preponderance of naval power there, though the capabilities on land are much more fragile.

In the 1960s, the Soviet Union adopted a policy of developing its naval power and projecting it world-wide. In the Mediterranean this led to a

substantial increase in its naval presence. One analyst estimates the Soviet presence in 1964 at 5,000 ship-days, whereas in the mid-1970s during the period of tension around the Yom Kippur War this had increased to 20,000 ship-days a year.

The United States still puts on a show of strength from time to time with three or even four aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean, but much of the time there is only one carrier.

Nato's southern commanders miss few opportunities to complain about the inadequacy of British efforts in the western Mediterranean, and particularly at Gibraltar. The underlying thought is that so long as Spain's commitment to Nato remains hesitant, Britain should accept responsibility for the defence of the Gibraltar straits, and in the absence of a permanently assigned flotilla, the shore-based defences on Gibraltar need to be beefed up.

Although the British Government's public position is that it is satisfied with the forces assigned to Gibraltar, other British sources readily

acknowledge that Britain is failing to achieve its Nato-force targets in that area.

Much of the concern derives from the fact that the Mediterranean remains one of the world's key commercial arteries.

Because the Mediterranean is a relatively small, almost land-locked sea, it contains a large number of narrow passages which would be susceptible to blockading, and most of which would have to be kept open in times of war. These choke-points range from the Suez Canal in the east to Gibraltar in the west with midway, narrow waters around Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily and Malta.

But if these passages have to be kept open, there are others which the West would be desperate to close. These are the Bosphorus, the Dardanelles and the passages around Crete which are the successive gateways from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. If ever the Soviet Union were to control these routes and be able easily to deploy its Black Sea fleet in the Mediterranean the whole balance of naval power could be radically affected.

It is here that the interface lies between naval and land power, and it is here that Nato's anxieties are greatest.

Tomorrow: Eliminating the imbalance.

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Mediterranean forces stretched

NATO's SOUTHERN FLANK Part 1

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Zia remains unmoved by hostile crowds

From Michael Hamlyn Rawalpindi

While 20,000 Pakistanis demonstrated yesterday against the martial law regime of President Zia ul-Haq, the President himself revealed a little more of his plans for the eventual restoration of democracy in an Independence Day press conference.

He declined to be specific in any way about his own future, which in itself was significant since there was a rumour when he was clear that he would eventually return to barracks. This time all he would allow was that "personally I have no political designs".

Other demonstrators went on to towns across the country, but the Karachi one was the largest. Fighting broke out when pro-Zia demonstrators attacked the crowd, and police had to break it up with tear gas and a loud charge.

Afterwards a number of arrests were made, including Mr Abid Zubair, the acting convenor of the Movement

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Car shown is fitted with optional rear wash/wipe at extra cost.

FORD ESCORT

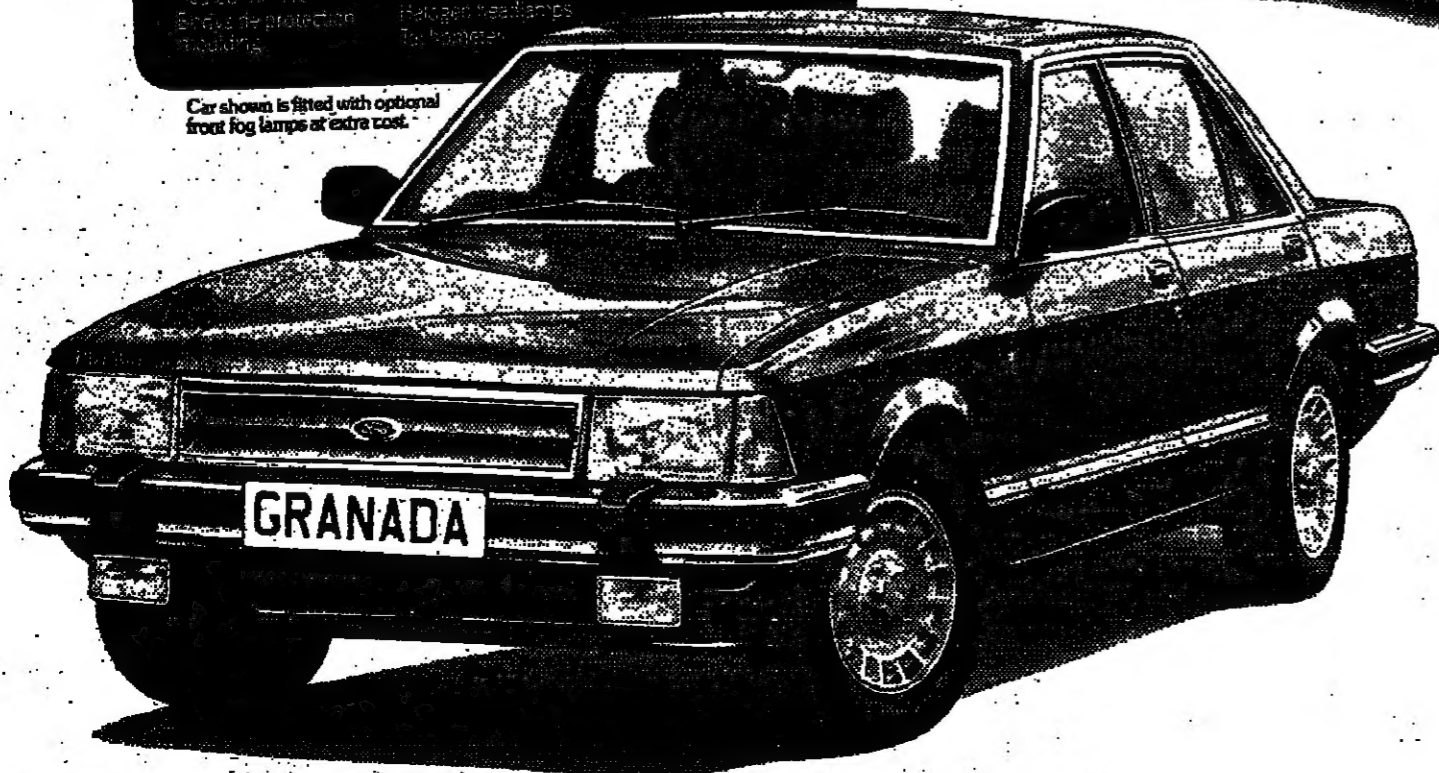
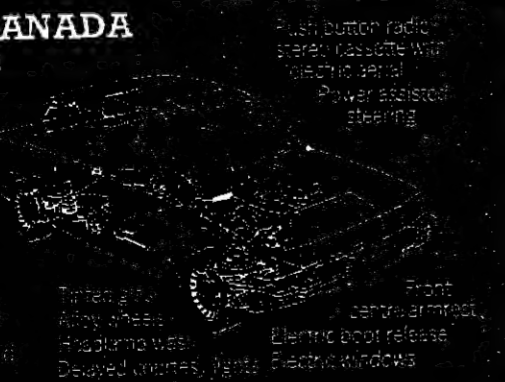
Car illustrated is
Escort XR3i
with:



Car shown is fitted with optional head restraint. parts at extra cost.

FORD GRANADA

Car illustrated
is Granada
2.8 Ghia
with:



Car shown is fitted with optional front fog lamps at extra cost.

FORD FIESTA

Car illustrated is
Fiesta Finesse
with Special Option
Pack with:

- Push button radio/stereo cassette
- Body-side stripe
- Locking fuel tank cap
- Tailgate wash/wipe
- Adjustable head rests
- Centre console with quartz clock
- Laminated windscreens
- Tilting/removable glass sunroof



FORD CAPRI

Car illustrated is
Capri 2.8 Injection
with:



As you will have heard, we've finally had to raise our prices* a little.

However, Ford dealers still have cars left that haven't gone up.

So, if you're quick, you've still a chance to buy a Ford at the old price.*

Don't miss it. Call in and see your local Ford dealer right away.

And see what makes Ford cars the most successful range in Britain.

Ford gives you more.



Irish priest held in riots as Chile protesters try to bury their dead

Santiago (AP, AFP) - A Roman Catholic priest from Ireland was arrested along with at least 20 mourners as disorders erupted at funeral services here for two of the 24 people killed during anti-government demonstrations. At least five funeral processions turned into protest marches.

At the Metropolitan Cemetery in south-west Santiago a police helicopter hovered overhead and three armoured cars circled outside during a ceremony for two of the protesters. About 600 people attended the service, and near the end scores of youths threw stones over the picket fence at helmeted riot police who responded with tear gas. Many shouted "murderers, murderers" at the police.

Rioting interrupted rail services - when enraged inhabitants of the poor José María Caro neighbourhood threw stones at trains.

Father Liam Holahan, aged 78, of Kilkenny, a member of the London-based Mill Hill

Missionaries, said he was arrested while walking home from a cemetery, and then beaten and kicked for an hour on a police bus and in a police station. He said he was released late on Saturday without being charged.

"They claimed I was fleeing with a crowd that had burnt a bus, but I never saw any bus. When I told them I was a priest, they beat me even harder. I heard one of them say, 'Let's crucify him'", he said.

By nightfall on Saturday, the protests appeared to have ended and, unlike previous nights, there were no flaming barricades in the streets.

Earlier, the Interior Minister, Señor Sergio Onofre Jarpa, met the Archbishop of Santiago, Mgr Juan Francisco Fresno, and promised to investigate reports of "unnecessary violence" by soldiers and police during the protests on Thursday and Friday.

Señor Alfonso Márquez, Secretary-General of the Government, said seven people

were killed on Friday night in poor districts of Santiago, where bands of youths set up street barricades and threw stones at riot police, who fired automatic weapons.

He said that "professional provocateurs" were responsible for the disorders, but did not describe the circumstances of the victims' death.

Señor Onofre Jarpa said continuation of violent demonstrations could lead to civil war.

The tear gas stopped the funeral processions of Eliana Gómez Aguirre, aged 21, and Antonio Fuentes Lagos, aged 20. "Eliana was talking with a woman friend in the doorway of a nearby house when a soldier fired from the street corner and the bullet hit her in the head", said one of her 10 brothers.

"Antonio was not chanting slogans or shouting when he was shot", said his stepfather. "We begged Army patrols to take him to an emergency clinic but they said they could not. Later a doctor said he died from bleeding".

Mexico and US in search for stability

From John Carlin, La Paz, Mexico

President Reagan arrived yesterday in the town of La Paz, at the southern tip of the Mexican peninsula of Baja California, for a day of talks with President Miguel de la Madrid. Central America was expected to be the chief issue under discussion at the summit, the first between the neighbouring Presidents.

Mexico and the United States have traditionally disagreed on Central America. Mexico has always shown sympathy, and

Plane given to Belize

Britain has given Belize, its former Central American colony, two Defender Islander aircraft to strengthen its defences, according to a statement from Belmopan (Reuters reports).

Members of the Defence Force are being trained in Canada to fly and maintain the aircraft, which are to be used mainly for transport, reconnaissance and rescue operations.

Britain has maintained a small garrison in Belize since it became independent in 1981.

often support, for Central American revolutionary movements, while the United States has been committed to checking, at all costs, the spread of what it sees as a left-wing contagion in the region.

Tensions in Central America have never run higher, but the differences of opinion between the Mexican and American

Governments on how to defuse them remain marked.

President de la Madrid said in an interview on American television on Thursday that the presence of American warships off Central American coasts would put an obstacle in the way of peace efforts in the region, particularly attempts to avoid war between left-wing Nicaragua and US-backed Honduras.

Nevertheless, Señor de la Madrid was at pains to emphasise "the understanding" and "maturity" that characterize relations between Mexico and the United States.

"We agree to disagree" on foreign policy is always the line of the American Embassy in Mexico City. There was little reason to believe that there would be any unaccustomed friction between the two Presidents, or between Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State and Mexico's Foreign Minister, Señor Bernardo Sepúlveda, who were also present.

There has been much speculation in Washington and Mexico City that President Reagan planned to use the meeting to put pressure on Mexico to toe the more belligerent American line on Central America, instead of pursuing a policy of negotiation with all parties, the Sandinistas in Nicaragua included.

Mr Reagan was expected to apply economic muscle to Mexico at a time when it is passing through its severest economic crisis ever.

Tibet crops ravaged by drought

Lhasa (AFP) - A persistent drought is threatening to increase Tibet's heavy economic dependence on the Peking Government. Officials here said the drought is the worst in 50 years and affects more than 60 per cent of Tibet's arable land.

"Many rivers and even wells deeper than 30 metres (99 ft) are dry," Mr Gong Dax, director of the Department of Agriculture and Forests, told visiting journalists. This year's grain harvest could be less than last year's 447,000 tonnes, which was below that of 1981.

The best harvest was in 1978, with 510,000 tonnes. Livestock, Tibet's main resource, showed a 6 per cent decrease during the past few months.

In the commune of Baiding, on the city's outskirts, an official indicated that the only consequence of the drought was a reduction in cream production, which was previously 15lb a year per yak and was now 11lb. Yaks, which can live at altitudes of 13,000ft to 16,000ft, are also used as draught animals.

Their milk is used to make butter, which is an ingredient in two staples of the Tibetan diet - griddle barley flour, known as *tampe*, and tea.

During the Cultural Revolution, local authorities provoked an outcry among the peasants by forcing them to replace barley with wheat. Today, wheat occupies 20 per cent and barley close to 50 per cent of arable land, but the drought, which began in 1981, has spared neither crop.

Such optimism, however, sits oddly with the steadily deteriorating security situation around Beirut. The international airport remains shut, while Government officials consider the Druze threat to shell the runways if Lebanese Air Force jet fighters and helicopters are not removed.

Yesterday, hundreds of Leba-

neese queued at the Beirut docks to take boats to Cyprus, where Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's national carrier, is trying to start temporary operations.

Meanwhile, Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's Middle East envoy, spent some hours with Mr Saeb Salam, one of Lebanon's few respected elder statesmen and an increasingly vigorous critic of President Gemayel's Government.

The Americans are now listening to the voice of Mr Gemayel's opponents in Lebanon in a way they have not done before.

In the Chouf itself, Israeli troops have closed down two more Phalangist militia barracks prior to their departure, but still no attempt has been made by the Israelis to disarm either the Phalangists or the Druze.

The Lebanese Army Command intends to send 8,000

men of the 3rd, 4th and 8th Brigades with tanks and armoured personnel carriers into the Chouf, and expects that troops of the multinational force in Beirut will patrol the international highway between Beirut and the mountain town of Bhamdoun and the coastal highway from Beirut to the Awali.

The Lebanese Army has been told that the Israelis cannot guarantee their presence in the Chouf after August 20, although this is not in itself a departure date.

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Continued from page 1

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From Robert Fisk, Beirut

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On Friday, an explosion wrecked the first Station of the Cross - the basilica in Lourdes.

John Paul II is the first Pope to visit Lourdes since Bernadette claimed to have had her vision. A grim reminder of his vulnerability is that he intended to make his pilgrimage in 1981 but was prevented by the attempt on his life.

Yesterday afternoon the Pope prayed at the grotto, set in the rock, before going to a large field across the river to speak to the faithful in French. Later, he walked in a candlelit procession to the basilica, where he was due to give another sermon.

Today, the Pope's programme starts with a service at the basilica attended by bishops, priests, monks and nuns. That will be followed by an open air Mass, meetings with young people, and the blessing of the sick. Before leaving Tarbes airport in the evening, the Pope is due to meet M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, for about an hour.

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Cosmonaut warning averts flood disaster

Moscow (AFP) - The two Soviet cosmonauts, Commander Vladimir Liakhov and Alexander Alexandrov, who have been 47 days in their orbiting space station, have saved part of Soviet Central Asia from serious flooding by warning the flight command centre, Moscow radio reported yesterday. They spotted a lake 12,000 ft up in an inaccessible part of Tajikistan, and geologists who inspected the area said it had been formed after a thaw and was threatening to flood several towns, later evacuated. A channel was dug to divert the water.

The cosmonauts yesterday detached the unmanned Cosmos 1443, which linked up with the Salyut 7 space station on March 10, and sent it spinning into space.

Spain agrees to fishing cuts

Rabat (Reuters) - Spain and Morocco have initiated a fishing agreement after seven months of tough negotiations which will force Spain to accept part of its 1,200-strong fleet operating off Morocco, informed Spanish sources said.

The deal involves a gradual 40 per cent cut in catches, a 70 per cent rise in fishing fees, and Spanish financial aid totalling £366m.

Four climbers die in Alps

Sion (AP) - Four climbers died in weekend accidents in the Swiss Alps, bringing the season's toll to 22. Two men climbing the Matterhorn's north face fell hundreds of feet onto a glacier.

Three French mountaineers plunged into a crevasse when a falling rock hit one of them as they crossed the 10,902 ft Col de Chardonnet. Two of them - a woman, aged 59, and a 72-year-old man - died.

'Reign of fear' in Philippines

Manila (Reuters) - The Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, said yesterday an atmosphere of fear and anguish prevailed in the Philippines because of social injustice and rampant violation of human rights.

He said the top 5 per cent of the population owned 30 per cent of the wealth while 17 million endured "abject poverty".

Flood rescue

Delhi (Reuters) - The Indian Army has been called in to help rescue thousands of people marooned by the flooding of the Godavari River in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, where at least 70 people have drowned or been killed by collapsing houses.

Tanker sunk

Cape Town (Reuters) - The oil-laden bow section of the burnt-out Spanish supertanker Castillo de Bellver sank in the Atlantic 150 miles off the South African coast on Saturday after experts blew two holes in its side.

Blaze beaten

Dar es Salaam (Reuters) - A forest fire, which threatened thousands of wild animals living on the slopes of the 19,340ft Mount Kilimanjaro, has been extinguished after a week-long struggle by Tanzanian firemen, soldiers and civilians.

Peking appeal

Peking (Reuters) - The Government has called on foreign scientists of Chinese descent to show patriotism by coming to China and helping to develop their motherland, the New China news agency said.

Pilgrims killed

Delhi (AFP) - Up to 60 pilgrims died in a stampede at a Hindu shrine in the north Indian state of Himachal Pradesh when a building belonging to a temple priest collapsed during a fair.

Clemency plea

Bangkok - A former student activist, Chirawat Kienpanya, aged 25, who is awaiting execution for killing a policeman, will ask King Bhumibol for clemency. His family has already lodged a similar appeal.

Typhoon threat

Tokyo (Reuters) - High waves pounded Japan's Pacific coast and torrential rains lashed southern regions yesterday as two typhoons moved closer. Six swimmers were drowned in rough seas.

Baltic barrier

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Union has started to build a 15-mile barrier across the Bay of Finland to protect Leningrad from flooding during high tides in the Baltic. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* reported.

Basque blast

Usurbil (Reuters) - Two separatist guerrillas died when their car blew up outside a factory in this Basque town, police said. They belonged to an anarchist offshoot of ETA.

Ankara inquiry on politicians' leak to 'Times'

Ankara (Reuters) - Military officials are investigating how a protest published in *The Times* from 16 detained Turkish politicians left the military base where they are being held, sources close to the detainees said at the weekend.

The statement appeared in Tuesday's issue of *The Times*, denouncing as a fraud general elections set for November and criticizing Western nations for supporting the military regime.

The 16 have been held since June 2. They are from the two main political parties before the 1980 military coup, and include the former Prime Minister Mr Süleyman Demirel.

The sources said visits by the detainees' close relatives had been suspended for the past few days. They added, however, that there was no visible change in the treatment of the detainees. Leading article, page 11

UN race conference heeds West's views

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

An action programme for the second decade against racism - to follow the present decade which ends in December - was adopted here at the weekend, amid some controversy, by the 10-day second United Nations world conference on racism and racial discrimination.

Several paragraphs were voted on separately by the 126 nations represented, so that Western countries could register their reservations on the call for intensified measures to isolate South Africa, including termination of business contacts and an embargo on the supply of strategic commodities, especially oil.

In the end it was adopted by 104 votes to nil, with 10 abstentions. On a policy declaration, the voting was 101 for, 12 against, the European Community countries, Canada,

Iceland, Norway and Switzerland - and three abstentions.

Western countries opposed the reference in the declaration to discrimination against inhabitants of areas occupied by Israel. This was also put to the vote, with 87 for, 17 against and 11 abstentions.

Apart from the Western reservations, several delegations took the view that events in those areas were similar to other examples of alien military occupation and not essentially racist.

The Western countries contention that maintaining links with South Africa enabled them to bring effective pressure against apartheid was described as "an excuse to buy time and do nothing", by Mr Victor Gibebo, of Ghana, spokesman for the African nations.

The man believes his name is David Miller. But the hospital said yesterday that he was to be given a language test to see if he speaks Lithuanian. The test follows a telephone call from an electronics engineer from Wittington, Manchester, who said that the man was his brother Mantis Gasimas, aged 24. The brothers, born of Lithuanian parents, were brought up in Australia and England.

The situation was much the same all over the Soviet Union, it said.

It cited the case of a war veteran named as Khanko, who had tried in vain to order special lenses for the past 10 years.

The old man, virtually blind without spectacles, had travelled to Moscow, Kiev and other cities in a fruitless hunt for them.

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In Toulouse,

THE ARTS

Television
Wall of sound

Those under 40 can hardly have forgotten the "Spector sound", that heavily pounding beat which had the strange, subtle quality normally associated with outboard motors and hydraulic lifts. Da Doo Ron Ron (Channel 4), an analysis of Phil Spector's records, brought back with the four meaningless words of its title all that Sixties noise, which now seems as remote as Benny Goodman.

Spector was a record producer who decided, quite early on in his career, that he was the only person who mattered in the studio. The artists were interchangeable, and he exhausted the musicians in rehearsal so that they lost their individuality, only his extraordinary "wall of sound" was important. He had a divine genius for what would sell, together with an extraordinary talent for self-promotion: such people are unstoppable.

No one seemed to like him very much. "If there is such a thing as a bad guy," one songwriter said, "it is Phil Spector." But his only fault, apart from the fact that he was better than anyone else, seemed to be his skill in manipulating "PR". In a business which is established upon the "hype" of worthless products, that did not seem a particularly damning charge.

It was good to know, from the credits, that The Charterhouse of Parma (Channel 4) is "based upon" Stendhal's novel. It is difficult to know what else it might be drawn from, except perhaps some brochures by the Italian tourist industry, the opening scenes looked as if they had been filmed in the Uffizi. The only expense spared in this "international" production was that of imagination.

One Summer (Channel 4) last night followed the adventures of the "deprived but street-wise" boys from Liverpool - in other words, two loutish and generally unappealing teenagers. "Biff" and "Ticky" are particularly boorish, although presumably a "warm" comedy can be derived from the fact that they insult or steal from anyone in sight. The facts that young people are "deprived" and come from Liverpool do not necessarily make them interesting, however; on occasions such as this, rather less so.

Peter Ackroyd

Catherine Cookson country is off the branch line from Newcastle to Hexham. At the station the visitor is met by Tom Cookson, Catherine's schoolmaster husband, a slight, neat man in owl-like glasses. We drive out of Hexham, following the old Roman roads that skirt the Pennines, leaving fields behind as we rise into the fells. He points: "There on that hill is the drovers' inn where Constance met Michael. Down in that valley is the ravine where Donald died. She saw it all when we were passing this way." He is talking about the Mallens, heroes of one of the most popular trilogies of the most celebrated historical novelist of our time, Catherine Cookson. Tom Cookson never names her; he speaks of his wife as "she", quite naturally, and with pride, as if there were no one else of such importance.

Seven years ago, when Catherine was 70, the Cooksons moved back to the countryside of her childhood after an exile for her of over 45 years. They settled for a while in Corbridge but autograph-hunters soon earmarked the spot as a natural break in any journey between Scotland and the south, and Americans took to planning their summer holidays with a pilgrimage in mind. The Cooksons' new house is 12 miles away, into remote country, on no known route to anywhere, a 300-year-old stone cottage they have added to, on the edge of a reservoir with the moors beyond. Catherine Cookson is standing by the door, an upright, handsome woman in a sage green and lame suit, a little like the headmistress of a select girls' school.

She leads the way. Small in appearance from the outside, the house opens on to a series of vast rooms, two great drawing-rooms, a long dining-room with a mahogany table for 16 and upstairs, reached by a wrought-iron staircase, an immense study with magnificent views over rhododendrons and azaleas to the lake. Everywhere there are rich patterned materials, flock papers and damask, flowered linen, chandeliers and ornaments, porcelain in cabinets, the walls thickly hung with seascapes and sunsets. Off her bedroom is a Hollywood bathroom with a round, raised bath. There is a large white pool. Everything is very tidy.

Catherine Cookson's sixtieth novel, *Hamilton*, is published today. It is quite unlike the great melodramatic family sagas for which she is best known and she has had to swing reluctant agents and publishers behind her. "I always wanted to write comedy," she explains. There seems little likelihood however that it will join all her other books on the best-seller list. Catherine Cookson is said to be in the unique position of being the only writer of her kind to have her entire work in print. Not long ago Corgi presented her with a glass and gold centrepiece for her table with the words of a dying heroine on the base: it was to celebrate her 27½ million sales in paperback alone.

The devotion of a public now in some 30 countries - Holland in particular, she says, is "saturated with

Catherine Cookson has risen above adversity to a seemingly permanent place in the best-seller lists: her sixtieth novel, *Hamilton*, is published today. Interview by Caroline Moorehead

Returning to first principles



Photograph of Catherine Cookson by Alan Gernaghty

Cookson's - inevitably dominates her life. She treats the 3,000 letters she receives each year very seriously, keeping a record of every detail on a card index. "People have been writing to me for 20 years. They treat me as family. I get a letter whenever someone has a new baby." Answering her post takes up part of each morning. But by then she will have been at work since seven, sitting on the edge of her bed, talking into a dictaphone. "I took to it like a duck to water," she talks fast, laughing often, with an agreeable still-

northern voice, occasionally using the Northumberland idiom of her childhood and her heroines: "Me da" (my father). "I've always been a jabberer. I just used, I see everything in images. The plot sort of unfolds. Even the dialogue. In the morning, it's all there to put down."

Writing, for Catherine Cookson, began with a 16,000-word story turned down by the *Shields Daily Gazette*. It took no firm shape until well after the war. By then she had long since left behind her the extreme poverty of Tyne

Dock, her illegitimacy, her mother's alcoholism and her 12 years in the laundries of various workhouses. But, if the early years of her life were quite exceptionally hard, the middle ones were the most unhappy.

"I now look back on the years between 40 and 50 as a painful nightmare", she wrote in her autobiography, *Our Kate*. Four miscarriages had been followed by a nervous breakdown, which lasted some 10 years, and the final recognition that the nose-bleeds she had suffered since adolescence in fact came from a rare hereditary blood disease. Today bleeding, from tongue and thumbs as well as internally, takes her on repeated emergency night trips to hospital. She dismisses the subject, saying only that the real nuisance is that she is allergic to drugs.

She took 12 years to write *Our Kate*, which turned out in the end to be more about her mother than herself. "I had to rewrite it eight times, each time deleting a bit more of the bitterness", she says. In fact *Our Kate* is a touching and rather gentle book. By the time it appeared, in 1968, Catherine Cookson was securely established as the popular and prolific writer of extremely readable historical tales. "I have always looked upon writing as a trade", she says. "I simply appreciated myself to it." She never makes notes, other than for ages, names and colour of eyes of her characters. "I am lucky! I can keep it all in my head. I can just carry on the story wherever I am."

Her words suggest complacency. But Catherine Cookson is a dogged researcher and her novels are dense in historical detail. She once went down a mine when the heroine of her current novel lived in mining country. "You see, until I was 16 my world was a short straight line: Jarrold, East Jarrow, Tyne Dock and East Shield, running along the river. I had everything to catch up. It wasn't until I grew up and read Lord Chesterfield that I began my education. He became my tutor and the public library my university."

"When Tom's school was evacuated to St Albans during the war we had a little flat opposite the library. I took a book every day: Chaucer, Emerson, John Donne. Good plain writing, no hyphens. I would have liked to have studied philosophy. Homespun philosophy, that's what you get in my books." It took her a while, she says, to stop hankering after "grand houses, and ladies and gentlemen" and turn to writing about extreme poverty, the pawn shop, illegitimacy, drunkenness. "I had to get rid of that pseudo person. I had to return to my early beginnings." She never travels. But she is possessed, she says, of second sight, especially when it comes to the North. "I'm afraid to believe in reincarnation. Oh no, I've had enough." She talks of the catastrophes of her life baldly, but not with self-pity.

There are ten unpublished novels - "they didn't pass Tom's eye" - and five more ready in her study. "I never have difficulty thinking up ideas. I have too many. They tumble over each other."



Paolo Bonelli and Tania Rocchetta as the Macbeths

Theatre
Stab in the back

Macbeth
Riverside

The Compagnia del Collettivo from Parma arrives at the London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT '83) with a great deal of hype for a two-week "Shakespeare season": first *Hamlet*, now this *Macbeth*, then *Henry IV* from next Thursday.

They use as much or as little of the text (in Italian) as they need to get to the heart of the play and present it in whatever mixture of modern styles seems apt. The Macbeths, for instance, get through their absurd little story on a film set, bowed and scraped to by technician-supers incessantly sniffing their armpits or doing up their flies.

How interesting is it as a theatrical spectacle? Sometimes pretty good. How much does it have to say about Shakespeare's *Macbeth* (which is not the point anyhow)? Not a lot. How much does it say about anything else in the world around us, "the universal truths inherent in great literature"? Not enough. If only subconsciously, so much of the motivation seems to have been simply to cock a snook at an irritatingly towering literary landmark, when in this country that would not be necessary before - and would only get in the way of - the business of ripping apart and fruitfully reconstructing an old play containing something of value.

The evening opens with a fairly bored reading of the play's synopsis in which the witches salute Macbeth thrice merely from inability to get it right first time. A beaked figure doubling sole Witch and Porter greets Banquo, initial loser in the prophecy stakes, with a loud raspberry but offers Macbeth a cigarette. The dagger speech is mocked with actorish delivery and loads of light.

Along with all this goes an interesting portrayal of the Macbeths themselves as young parvenus lounging in front of a trendy little portable telly with a pile of paperbacks. Duncan's death is discussed rather as an executive and his wife might debate his prospect for promotion or a rise. Television drones on throughout the murder but the discovery of the corpse is breathtakingly staged, with subdued hubbub of horror glimpsed in flashes of white light. Then the media move in to interview key figures, yelling to Malcolm to weep (he refuses).

Lady Macbeth dies in Pirandellian style by throwing off her costume and marching off the set in ordinary clothes. Macbeth, with the house lights on, declares "Life's but a walking shadow. Life is cinema. A tale told by an idiot..." The cheap chair earlier demolished as a symbol of Macbeth's fall is taped together for Malcolm's coronation but will not take his weight without collapsing. It is all too easy, an intermittently successful stab at doing what should be done better.

Anthony Masters

Promenade Concerts

BBCSO/Pritchard
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Mahler's "most perfect work" and "his supreme masterpiece" (two recent comments by Mahler scholars on *Das Lied von der Erde*) is peculiarly satisfying to hear at a Prom. The unusual notion of an almost infinite vision expressed in terms of intimate, personal song-settings matches perfectly the combination of huge space and intense concentration in the Albert Hall: at Saturday night's performance (shown yesterday evening on BBC1) the large audience was rapt and still.

On this occasion it was the vividly detailed orchestral writing that fired the imagination: the eerie, twisted pairs of wind instruments warbling sounds of nature; a superlative first oboe (John Anderson) unravelling the uncertain skein of melody in the second section of "Der Abschied"; a weightless solo flute (David Butt) floating above the voice. John Pritchard shaped the music with warm, rounded gestures, missing something of Mahler's sheer desolation but allowing his players ideal breadth in which to phrase.

William Lewis - a late replacement for Hermann Winkler - tackled bravely the *Adientenor* register of the first song, but, admirably, he preferred to retain a fine tone and to be occasionally drowned. Some disagreements - about rhythm in "Von der Jugend" unsettled things; but "Der Trunkene" had a fine, desperate swagger. To judge from the reception, many in the audience were moved by Janet Baker's

singing; but, in the words of the last song, her voice was veiled - a cloudy, vibrant tone obscured the simple purity of Mahler's melodies, and she allowed her voice to flower in generous, wide crescendo at the tops of phrases.

Nicholas Kenyon

ASMF/Marriner
Albert Hall/Radio 3

What is one to say of a work by Peter Maxwell Davies that shatters no idols, does not rant and rail against the world, and has no deadly issues of power, corruption or survival to unfold? His *Sinfonia Concertante* for five solo wind, timpani and strings, which received its first performance at Friday night's Prom (after the intended premiere in America during the recent Britain Salutes New York Festival was cancelled), is a cool, collected essay: complex and restless on the surface as any work of Davies's has to be, but underneath breathing an extraordinary, untypical repose of spirit which suggests that the composer has perhaps found a (temporary?) musical equilibrium.

Which is not to imply that there are no risks taken in this intricate, absorbing half-hour piece: to devote a full six minutes of a 13-minute opening movement to a slow introduction is bold indeed: solo flute and oboe gently lay out the minor-thirds over the timpani's F that will provide the tonal argument of the piece, but it is not until an accelerating whipsaw into an almost brazenly Mozartian horn theme over pizzicato strings that the

music's impetus is felt. On Friday the long melodic transformations for the wind did not quite stand out clearly enough; but the musical argument, as in Davies's Second Symphony, is scrupulously organized, and the clarity is increased here by the absence of any flamboyant orchestral effects.

The end of this first movement evaporates exquisitely into what turns out to be the material of the second, where the minor thirds drift airily, like a half-heard echo of Davies's Orkney music: from an F minor-ish third emerges a long, low C on flute and oboe, an alternative point of response to the F - which then, however, the timpani raps home, drawing the wind soloists in the final bars to an unexpectedly sharp unanimity of chording.

Solo flute tries to recapture the mood of lassitude, pondering the F minor-F major thirds, but the timpani rap home, drawing the wind soloists in the final bars to an unexpectedly sharp unanimity of chording. Solo flute tries to recapture the mood of lassitude, pondering the F minor-F major thirds, but the timpani rap home, drawing the wind soloists in the final bars to an unexpectedly sharp unanimity of chording.

In a mainly confident first performance, strongly directed by Neville Marriner, Antony Pay (clarinet) stood out among the excellent soloists for his ability to find the meaning as well as the notes; Tristan Fry's timpani playing was equally vivid. A word, too, for Anthony Rolfe Johnson's earlier account of Britten's *Les Illuminations* - lovely.

Nicholas Kenyon

Rostropovich
Festival
Buoyant
showman

The first Rostropovich Festival has happened at Snape: and with it, at its heart on Saturday night, the apotheosis of the invisible. Slava-and-friends concept in a programme of "Paintings and Music". There they all were: Prokofiev, Akhmatova, Shostakovich, Tsvetayeva, Stravinsky - for the eye in the language of fellow expatriot, Gabriel Glikman, staring in the raw, sculpted distillation of character, and for the ear in the musical tributes of Rostropovich and his wife, all curves, fullness and substantiation.

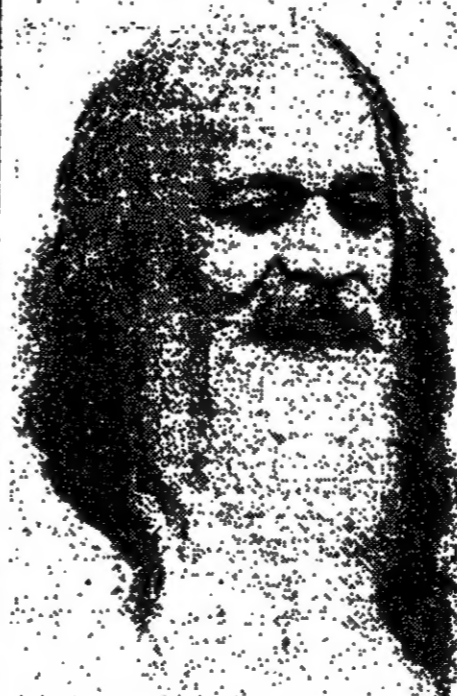
The pictures, well hung in the unyielding proportions of the Maltings recital room, were spirited via slide and screen into the concert hall, where to the accompaniment of Rostropovich's buoyant verbal showmanship they spoke their own silent subject. In Glikman's own work (think of Chagall, Kandinsky, the cubist Picasso) there is a volatile movement between darlings of colour and laconic wit and blocks of numb stasis drained of colour - and so it was in the recital.

There was Stravinsky, bony, triangular, sitting like a blue Gandhi ("when he smiled he was like an evil old lady"), with the red scepticism of his 1937 "Russian Song" played with nicely mocking restraint by Rostropovich and Roger Vignoles. There were, on the other hand, the blue hope-drained eyes of Shostakovich: all angles of dry white lines hitting on coarse canvas or hardboard ("his life was angular, chased from one corner to another"), and there was his "Tears for a Dead Child". Its question and answer Jewish folk-song shared between Jane Mackenzie's dramatic and ever more vibrant soprano and Marcia Swanson's distinctive smoky mezzo.

Marina Tsvetayeva was remembered by Galina Vishnevskaya in a spare, word-poor performance of Shostakovich's "Hamlet's Dialogue with his Conscience", while portraits of Alexander Blok and Anna Akhmatova, both pierced by the red bayonet of revolution, had their counterparts in Shostakovich and Prokofiev settings.

Prokofiev alone remained with the eyes of a child: past the lacolite wit, the biting repartee, Glikman and Rostropovich saw the still blue eyes and full red lips of fairy tale, and the C major wonder of the Adagio from *Cinderella*.

Hilary Finch



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SPECTRUM

The dedicated modeller of fashion

I had always been fascinated by shops. I enjoyed pottering with objects and arranging them into patterns. In Jerusalem as a child I loved going into the local corner-shop. Food was scarce, but the couple who owned the shop took pride in displaying their cheeses on marble slabs with net covers like umbrellas and little blue beads around the base. Rows of sausages hung from a pole and on the floor there were sacks full of grain, beautifully laid out. And now, in 1964, I suggested the idea of opening a shop to Fitz. He thought it was silly, as life would revolve around looking after it, but I was feeling more and more infatuated with the idea of having a place to show off the clothes we had been selling through our mail-order business.

We had accumulated lots of rejects and garments that people had sent back to exchange. Without telling Fitz, I hauled them over from our basement warehouse in Motcomb Street to our flat and spent hours arranging them round the living room, hanging them on door frames, fireplaces and cupboards. The next day I telephoned friends and secretaries of fashion writers, announcing a sale.

I put the record player on as loud as I could, playing a Beatles LP. By one o'clock the flat was seething. Every person I had telephoned had told at least 10 others, who in turn had brought friends along. When I telephoned Fitz at his office to come and have look, I had £500 in a shoe box I was using as a till. Our bedroom had been turned into a changing room. I even had trouble refusing to sell my cushions and casserole dishes. By the time Fitz arrived, the flat looked as if a bomb had hit it. He thought it was a fluke, but for days afterwards people would arrive wanting to know if the sale was still on.

During one of my junk-hunting sprees I spotted a marvellous dilapidated place on the corner of Abingdon Road in Kensington. It had been a chemist's shop and had been closed for quite a while, but there were lots of black and gold signs left and the windows were painted halfway up with scratched black paint with gold-leaf edges. The woodwork outside was

Suddenly London was filled with long-legged girls and boys

covered in peeling blue-grey paint. I fell in love with it instantly.

I dragged Fitz down there and he loved it too. We found the landlord, who said he wouldn't take less than £20 a week for the premises. We took it on the spot.

The shop was miles away from anywhere, even from Kensington High Street, which in those days was a place where only old ladies shopped. We were both still working at our jobs. Fitz as an advertising account executive and me as a freelance fashion artist, but we redecorated the place at weekends. Fitz painted the walls navy blue. We bought a beautiful Dutch wardrobe for £40, took the doors off and made them into a cash desk. We made long curtains in a William Morris print. A friend lent us two bronze lamps with huge black shades. I refused to have the peeling exterior repainted.

We asked our manufacturer to make us dresses of one style, a smock with very narrow sleeves, in a range of fabrics. He agreed, as a favour. (Many years later, he revealed that he had felt sorry for us.)

While our stock was being manufactured, we received 2,000 orders by post for a brown chalk-striped smock which had been featured in *Woman's Mirror*. Two hundred of them arrived, and Fitz decided to store them at the shop as the Motcomb Street basement was already bulging. We delivered the dresses to the shop late one Friday night.

The next morning, Fitz dropped me off at the shop and left to collect some more dresses from the manufacturer. It was 10 o'clock and the curtains were still drawn across the windows. I left the front door and went into the lavatory. When I came out the shop was packed with girls. In concentrated silence they were all trying on the brown chalk-striped smock.

I turned the record player on. I only had the one Beatles LP. The louder the music played, the faster the girls moved and the more people appeared in the shop.

A silent queue formed in front of the cash desk. Each girl had a two-guinea dress on her arm. Not one asked if there were any other styles or other sizes. Nobody knew the price; they just held their purses open. By 11 o'clock, I had sold every dress.

As soon as I could get to the phone, I called Fitz and said: "Quick, grab any dress you can." The shop was still full of people waiting for a delivery. When he arrived, the car's hood was down and brown chalk-striped dresses were heaped up in a mountain behind him. Everyone left the shop and we sold in the street, from the car. We were still selling that brown chalk-striped dress in one size and one colour six months later.

Fitz and I now had no other life than Biba. When the shop opened we had both given up our jobs. Every morning we would feel great anxiety. We were

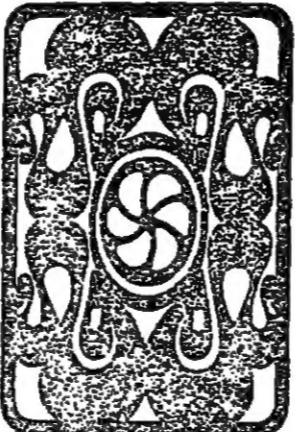
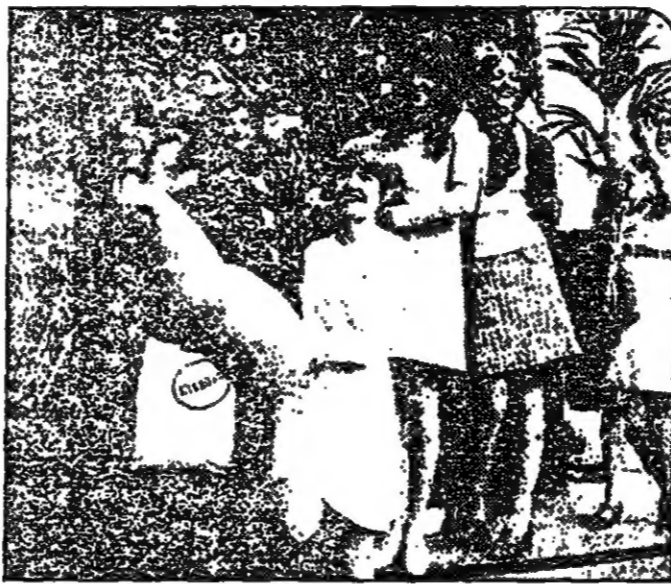


When she founded the Biba boutique, Barbara Hulanicki became the wardrobe mistress of Swinging London. Born in Palestine and brought up in Brighton before training as a fashion artist, she provided the girls of the golden Sixties with an image which amounted to a cultural statement: stick-thin legs protruded from beneath the abbreviated hems of simple dresses striped in mustard and

mulberry; wide eyes were ringed with colours to match; floppy felt hats and feather boas accessorized the fantasy. Biba even changed the nature of shopping itself, by promoting an informal mood which turned the Kensington premises into a Saturday rendezvous both for those who set the style and for those who followed it. In the first of three extracts from her forthcoming autobiography, Barbara Hulanicki describes how she and her husband, Stephen Fitz-Simon, conceived a phenomenon.



Hatstands and mini-dresses: Stephen Fitz-Simon and Barbara Hulanicki surrounded by some of the original Biba girls



Above left: styles (and prices) from the 1969 catalogue. Top right: Cilla Black and Cathy McGowan help the Biba dollsies in the move to Church Street. Lower left: an original Biba logotype. Lower right: Stephanie Farrow, a favourite Biba model

never sure if our customers would come back again.

One Tuesday morning the weather was awful. The sky was grey, there was a feel of a thunderstorm coming. The shop was empty. By noon the shop was still empty. I was feeling really depressed - it had all been a flash in the pan, the bonanza was over. We dashed up the road to Kensington High Street. It was empty, too. Not a soul, not one old lady with a shopping basket on two little wheels.

We soon realized that the shopping public reacts identically to the weather and the political situation. When they are depressed, they all depressed at the same time. When the sun comes out they are all happy and go out shopping. When the sun is hot they go to the park to sunbathe and you've lost them. When it rains, if you're a little shop they don't come, if you're a big store they stay with you all day. But it was this nervous that we found so exciting. For Fitz it was like fishing, and for me it was like hunting through junk shops: you never knew when you would catch a big one.

Our Saturdays were always spectacular, whatever the weather. If it was raining, the shop stank of wet wool and the floor would be awash. If it was sunny the groups of newly-found friends would congregate outside the shop. It became a meeting place. Years later I had letters from people who met at Biba, spent their courtship in Biba on Saturdays, married, had babies and wrapped them in Biba purple nappies. Recently I heard a beautiful girl at the airport calling, "Biba, Biba, to a little girl of about six in a straw hat and smock. We had become a big part of many people's lives.

At 26 Fitz and I felt much older than the others, like Mum and Dad. We worried about the girls who worked in the shop, and their fast lives. Some could cope, but many fell by the wayside by the time they were 19.

I don't think our girls were promiscuous; they picked and chose. If they fancied someone they went right out and got what they were after instead of weaving webs and hypocritical traps, as we had to in the 1950s. In

their flats and bedsits they had no mother waiting for them to see if they came home with a crumpled dress. In the buoyant mid-1960s they all had jobs and they were not used to eating massive meals. They were the postwar babies who had been deprived of nourishing protein in childhood and grew up into beautiful skinny people. A designer's dream. It didn't take much for them to look outstanding. The simpler the better, the shorter the better. Their legs seemed to be never-ending. Suddenly London was filled with long-legged girls and boys who became envied all over the world.

The girls and boys started to travel on new all-in cheap holidays, and to pick up continental elegance, too. There were masses of them and they all seemed to flock to Abingdon Road. With Cathy McGowan endorsing our clothes by wearing them nearly every week to present *Ready Steady Go* on TV, there was a sort of underground

Inside the shop, the Biba girl became more mysterious

grapevine which was growing daily. As soon as there was a new style the tomatoes would beat out a message throughout the clubs and offices and the shop would be full again. Every girl could buy a new dress for her evening date. They might all turn up wearing the same uncomfortable Biba smock that itched and stopped them bending their arms, but it was uniform for an era.

The girls aped Cathy's long hair and eye-covering fringe. Soon their little white faces were growing heavier with stage make-up, lids weighed down with doll-like thick fake lashes. Their matchstick legs were encased in pale tights and low-cut patent pumps. Miniskirts led to the adoption of tights. They seldom needed to wear roll-ons or bras. Their bosoms and tummies

were so tiny there was no need for the heavy upholstery. The natural form was beginning to show.

I had got through the depressing bits of my life before by slipping into fantasy and dream. When I met Fitz he made my fantasies come true. Biba was like a fantasy. I didn't like the way I looked, but the classic Biba doll had all the attributes I lacked. She was very pretty and young. She had an upturned nose, rosy cheeks, and a skinny body with long asparagus legs and tiny feet. She was square-shouldered and quite flat-chested. Her head was perched on a long, swanlike neck. Her face was a perfect oval, her lids were heavy with long, spiky lashes. She looked sweet but was as hard as nails. She did what she liked on impulse and had no Mum to influence her judgment.

As time went by my Biba girl became more dreamy and unobtainable. Her long straight hair turned into a halo of golden ringlets, her cheeks were hollowed by brown powder, and her lips stained with sepia lipstick. The thin line of her brows framed her sparkly blue eyes. Once she had formed into a person it was easy to think up dresses and all the other things that she might want to use. She was so young and fresh that all those Auntie colours that I had hated when I was young looked new on her. In the daylight the orchids, dusty blues, bilberries and mulberries looked quite in tune with her surroundings. Once she was inside Biba, the music thundered, the lighting was soft, and she became more mysterious.

All classes mingled under the shop's creaking roof. There was no social distinction. Their common denominator was youth and rebellion against the establishment. Young working girls, the beat offspring of aristocratic families, stars and would-be stars all flocked to the shop. One night as we were closing a tiny blonde girl came in and began taking the clothes off the hatstands. Instead of trying them on behind the dangerously wobbly screens, she stripped off in the shop and proceeded to try on smocks and trouser suits. Fitz was told to stay in the back office as the tiny, uninhibited

girl was prancing around dressed only in her knickers. She was magnetic - her skin was like marble and her features larger than life. It was Julie Christie, getting her wardrobe together for the film *Darling*.

It was almost a year before the name was painted over the door at Abingdon Road. I didn't like it. It was like branding something. The shop looked much better without a name. If people wanted to find us, they would.

(By the end of 1965, the business had outgrown the Abingdon Road shop. As *Swinging London* gathered momentum, Biba was moved to larger premises on Kensington Church Street.)

As opening day approached I was getting more and more nervous. Maybe nobody would follow us the extra 500 yards up the road. We orchestrated a moving party from Abingdon Road to Church Street and arranged a photocall for the press. Our girls wheeled rails full of dresses all the way up Abingdon Road and down Kensington High Street to the new shop, followed by photographers. A pantechinon arrived in Church Street

The more the man in the street whistled, the shorter the skirts became

full of hatstands and girls. The girls were holding Biba bags, in case the name of the shop didn't get mentioned in the stories.

I had been stationed in the new shop all alone waiting anxiously for guests to arrive, when it all happened at once. Cilla Black and Cathy McGowan arrived and so did a million other guests and gatecrashers. Cathy and Cilla clambered on to the lorry and helped to unload the hatstands, and the photographers had a field day. Music was thumping in the shop and the wine rapidly disappeared. Everybody had a good time.

When the last guest left it was 6 o'clock in the evening. The floor was awash with spilled wine. We began to bring out the stock and fill the shelves with T-shirts for the official opening the following day. It was a long night. By morning my brain was still whirling but my body had gone to sleep, so we went and had a greasy breakfast at the neighbouring cafe. When we came back there was a queue outside the shop.

My favourite moments were always just before a new shop was to open: the music would be turned on, the girls ready as if to go on stage, tension mounting and - bang - the doors would open and let in the first customers. This time the shop was full of people within moments. They examined everything - we had branched out into many new areas with everything dyed to match in a large spectrum of muted colours. There were big-brimmed hats, double-breasted wool coats, tights, gloves, bags, jumpers and shirts, dresses and underwear. Even the matching feather boas, which I had intended only to use as decoration, sold like hot cakes.

Our first Saturday in Church Street was astonishing. The shop was four times the size of Abingdon Road but as crowded as the little one had been. The pavement outside was milling with people, every window seat was occupied and I even saw our bank manager take a quick look inside. By the early afternoon the hatstands were bare but still more people came to look.

Two weeks after Church Street opened, in March 1966, a team of reporters from *Time* magazine arrived. The next day it was *Stern* and then *Paris Match*. In their usual unimpressed way, our girls and the customers continued to crowd the shop. America and Europe had discovered, or invented, Swinging London. Long before this the man in the street had taken exposed thighs as part of life, but all of a sudden there were wolf whistles and cries of "Ooh, look at that one". The more they exclaimed, the shorter the skirts became. Every week I thought that we surely couldn't shorten them any more, but magically there were a few odd inches to go.

It was through absolute ignorance that the mini reached the streets. The short skirt was on the way but it was only seen in showrooms. Courtesans had made a strong impact on the world with their space-age dresses. Mary Quant was the first British designer to show the mini but I still say that our manufacturer, dear old Theo Savva, was the man responsible for putting the mini on the high street. When the jersey allocated for a little suit arrived at his factory it was steaming hot from the finishers. As Fitz bombarded Theo with telephone calls for more and more stock for the opening of the shop, Theo cut the somewhat stretchy double jersey without "resting" it. Jersey that is not rested soon relaxes itself back to its proper width. It was the uncut fabric that rested - it was the skirts! When I saw the delivery I nearly had a heart attack. The skirts were only 10 inches long. God, I thought, we'll go bust - we'll never be able to sell them. I couldn't sleep, but that little fluted skirt walked out on customers as fast as we could get it on to the stands.

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TOMORROW: The final dream takes shape

moreover...
Miles Kington

Passion dons a uniform

Last month we created a new publishing house, Mills & Bang, to market a completely new form of novel: romantic military fiction, aimed to satisfy the fantasies of both men and women.

The response was remarkable - all titles were sold out within days of hitting the bookstalls, and *Jumping into Passion* appeared briefly on the Cross-Channel best-seller list.

Now, Moreover Enterprises Ltd is proud to announce a further selection of Mills and Bang novels - the novels that are as tough as old boots yet as soft as a first kiss!

Cavalry Tulle, by Yolanda Dabbin Debbie felt the wind streaming through her hair as she kicked Marmaduke into a gallop. How good it felt to be on her favourite horse once more, the soft turf of the downs beneath his hooves and the English Channel twinkling in the sun, way, way in the distance. Her memories of Oscar seemed just a bad dream.

Suddenly she became gradually aware that another rider was closing in to meet her. Crossly, she reined in and waited for him to arrive.

"I'm sorry," said the newcomer affably, "but this is private property. Restricted, you know."

"To whom, may I ask?"

"Members of the regiment, Captain Bruce Derwent at your service."

"And I," said Debbie coolly, "am Major Deborah Merryweather, newly joined to the regiment."

Derwent's face changed. But before he could bring himself to salute her, a shot rang out and whistled past them. Quick as a flash he had leapt from his horse, bundled her from hers and rolled them both into a safe position in the grass.

"Who's trying to kill us?" she gasped, thrilling strangely to the touch of his uniformed arm.

"Nobody. It's an army firing range. They could kill anybody. By the way," he said, his mouth not six inches from her perfect ear. "I believe you know my best friend, Oscar Thredgold. Major," he added reluctantly.

Oscar! His dark handsome face came before her, with its twisted smile. Then she looked at Bruce's sandy open features. How were their destinies to be intertwined?

"Perhaps you could put me down now, Captain," she said icily.

A Man's Girl, by Grenada Pina "Sorry to bother you, sir," said the sergeant, "but I'd like to have a word about Private Simple."

"What's the trouble?" said the captain. "Fact is," said the sergeant, "I think Private Simple's a woman."

The captain drummed his pencil on the desk.

"Extraordinary thing to say, sergeant. What makes you think so?"

"Difficult to pin down, sir. The way he walks. The extra large battle tunic. The tendency to use lipstick and shave his legs."

"Does he pull his weight otherwise?"

"Absolutely. Best soldier in the platoon."

"Then I wouldn't worry too much, sergeant. We need all the good men we can get, even if they are women."

Damn, thought the captain. They're on to Yvonne's and my little scheme. It was only as the door closed that the captain realized there was something odd about the sergeant. He was wearing high-heeled shoes. Were their destinies to be intertwined in some strange way?

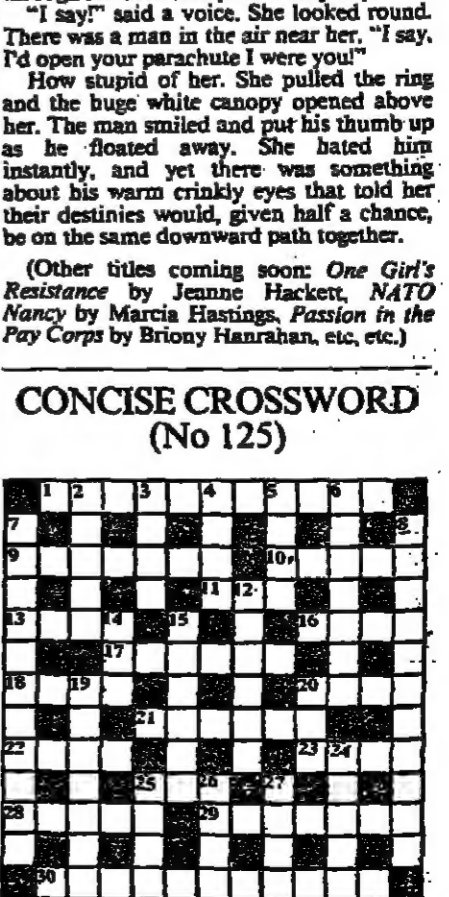
Free Fall Love, by Alberta Smithwick Rowena, rushing, went hot and cold. She felt limp. There was a roaring in her ears. Not surprising, as she was halfway through her first ever parachute jump.

"I say!" said a voice. She looked round. There was a man in the air near her. "I say, I'd open your parachute if I were you!"

How stupid of her. She pulled the ring and the huge white canopy opened above her. The man smiled and put his thumb up as he floated away. She bated him instantly, and yet there was something about his warm crinkly eyes that told her their destinies would, given half a chance, be on the same downward path together.

(Other titles coming soon: *One Girl's Resistance* by Jeanne Hackett, *NATO Nancy* by Marcia Hastings, *Passion in the Pay Corps* by Briony Hanrahan, etc. etc.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 125)



- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Joint interest (11) | 2 Concede (5) |
| 3 Of the Americas (7) | 3 Ballet (10) |
| 10 Reduce (5) | 4 Apiece (4) |
| 11 Pig's hock (3) | 5 False (4) |
| 13 Catcher's glove (4) | 6 Moslem ruler's area (7) |
| 16 Den (4) | 7 Bedroom cleaner (11) |
| 17 Strong protest (6) | 8 Chili (11) |
| 18 Red dirt (4) | 12 Expose to air (6) |
| 20 S African mountain (4) | 14 In addition (3) |
| 21 Conflict (6) | 15 Achieve (6) |
| 22 Fine spray (4) | 16 Out of date (7) |
| 23 Russian ruler (4) | 20 Wager (3) |
| 24 Band group (1,1,1) | 24 Squam burn (5) |
| 25 Perfect (5) | 25 Indication (4) |
| 29 Install (7) | 26 Food regimen (4) |
| 30 Bug killer (11) | 27 Specification (4) |

SOLUTION TO No 124
ACROSS: 1 Decibel 5 Hopes 8 UFO 9 Spruce
10 Usage 11 Beta 12 Heistap 14 Characterless
16 Ego trip 18 Also 21 Ultra 22 Oxidize 23 Tax
24 Endue 25 Yogurt
DOWN: 1 Dose 2 Curve 3 Baccalaureate 4 Lurch
5 Housebreaking 6 Prentie 7 Step past
13 Schedule 15 Abortif 17 Proxy 19 Snafu
20 Bent

MODERN TIMES



A sideways look at the British way of life

Not very long ago, when privilege and wealth were the prerogative of the upper classes, there were some people called Emsworth who had titles and butlers called Beach. They also owned a lot of the land over which they hunted, shot and fished. When they travelled they stayed in other Emsworths' houses or the best hotels. They were a jolly crowd and often asked all their friends and relations to come and play at weekends. Sadly the Emsworths were living on borrowed time. Even in the shires the social and economic structure was changing. Most of the poor got richer while the Emsworths found it increasingly difficult

to make ends meet - so much so that they sometimes had to sell off a wing of a house, or a few hundred acres, or even charge people called Smith, who wanted to see how the Emsworths lived, a couple of shillings to come and look over the house. At the same time as all this was going on a lot of people were making a lot of money, more often than not out of selling for thousands of pounds the news cottages in which the Emsworths' retainers had lived rent-free for years. Or from installing central heating systems or keeping books or shops. These people (called Goldfingers) believed in property and looked round for ways of making even more money. And all the while the Smiths (of whom there were infinitely more than there were Emsworths or Goldfingers) beavered away in their small corners and sometimes cast a wistful eye at the Emsworths and Goldfingers, who seemed to have all the fun and owned all the emblems of wealth - horses and boats and lakes and miles of river bank - and wished they could join in. Then one day, by chance, Lord Emsworth and Mr Goldfinger and Mr Smith happened to meet

and between them cooked up a brilliant wheeze. (It was Goldfinger's idea but Emsworth and Smith quickly saw the logic of it.) To Lord Emsworth, Goldfinger said: "You've got the land but no money; I've got the money and a good head for business - and you" (to Smith) "who haven't much of either could, if all your friends chipped in, afford to buy a part of all the things you've dreamed of owning but could never afford." And so the syndicate was born - a compromise, like most things in life, but one which gave all the members a slice of property and a slice of a dream. Thereafter syndicates and partnerships and consortia sprang up all over the place. Wherever there was a piece of property or a coveted object far too expensive for any one individual to buy, the syndicate bought. They purchased minor stately homes and turned them into country clubs or health farms, they bought yachts and racehorses, and sold shares to people who wanted to sail or swan around the Members' Enclosure; they even bought old masters and when they were not gathering dust in a vault, took it in turn to hang them in their various drawing rooms.

Lord Emsworth was happy because he was able to stay on in his estate and pay Fred the gamekeeper, and though he would have preferred not to have all the Smiths and Goldfingers wandering over his land and fishing his rivers, he was a realist and knew that this way at least there might be a bit left for his son. Smith was deliciously happy because his wife could afford a tan and told all her friends that she owned a racehorse (though in fact she had only one-twelfth share).

Goldfinger was probably the happiest of all because, apart from the shares he owned in all the syndicates, he had made enough money to buy a few horses and lakes and houses outright.

Puffing his pipe of an evening, Lord Emsworth mused over a book of proverbs. He found an old Spanish one which said something to the effect that "he who divides gets the worst share", which confirmed what he had known all along, that foreigners didn't know what they were talking about.

Judy Froshaug

Penny Perick

Doctor's public orders



Our two most popular national pastimes, nosing into the private lives of the famous and worrying about the state of our health, have been cleverly combined in a new television series to be screened by

HTV in the autumn. Called *Consider Yourself*, it films various celebrities doing what comes naturally and then hauls them in front of a doctor and psychologist to be given a serious talking-to.

Katie Boyle was so obviously a picture of gorgeous, glowing good health that she escaped censure. Roddy Llewellyn, though in good shape, was made so nervous by the proceedings that he reached out for more cigarettes than his normal ration. Darts player Eric Bristow turned out to be the villain of the piece: overweight, under-exercised, much given to late nights, late meals and lavish boozing.

However, he was so obviously fit and happy that he got away with a peevish warning to change his wicked ways by the time he's 30. The moral of that seems to be that a reckless youth is healthier than a mispent middle age.

What surprised Terry Miller, the programme's producer, was the way the normally self-confident celebrities floundered helplessly when caught out in their bad habits. I understand how they felt when exposed to close questioning of the medical kind since, being pale and peaky looking, I am always having to submit to this kind of inquisition. Why don't I wear a vest? Why do I spend Sunday afternoons on a sofa with a pile of novels and a mug of coffee instead of getting some roses in my cheeks?

Undeterred by my churlish ripostes, my husband even tenderly inquires every morning how I slept although by now he must have noticed that every night I fall into a snoring, ten hour stupor.

It's getting impossible for most of us to claim 101 per cent fitness in the light of so many diagnoses-it-yourself books flooding the market. All of them crammed with diagrams of parts of the body you never worried about before because you didn't know you were carrying them around with you. Ever since the reading public has worked itself through *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, it's fatal to ask "How do you do?" since you will probably be told.

Someone's state of health is considered a suitable topic for conversation in a way the state of their bank balance or the state of their sex life is not. I feel sorry for David Steel, innocently turning up for a refreshing weekender at David Owen's country house and getting instead the doctor's bedside manner and advice on the lines of "why don't you take a good long rest... don't think of coming back to politics for a while... come back and see me again in 1997".

Just the sort of thing to make him wonder whether he was likely to last the night.

I shall be interested to see if the subjects of *Consider Yourself* do just what the television doctor ordered. Will Anne Nightingale give up smoking? Will Leslie Thomas lose some weight? Such riveting questions should not be left hanging in the airwaves and I certainly hope HTV is planning a second series, provisionally entitled *Reconsider Yourself*.

There is a lot of serious wardrobe confusion about. Jeanne Turnock was sacked from her job at a crematorium for wearing trousers; MP Edwina Currie's pink tracksuit got some pretty old-fashioned looks from the honourable members and barrister Anne Mollathau's correct but dreary black working outfit was denied the "uniform" status that would have given her some tax relief.

We could simplify matters by adopting, to the last working woman among us, the American dress-for-success business look, worn by female secretaries and company presidents alike and consisting of a sober suit with a tailored jacket worn over a crisp blouse in an unexciting colour. The streets of any American city are full of women identically if uninspiringly dressed and they never wake up in the morning yelling, "What on earth am I going to wear today?"

Flavia Corkscrew is on holiday

Snooks and shares



FISH AND SNIPS

Tim Nelson (left) landowner who runs a trout fishing syndicate

Basically we've got 14 acres of water, consisting of lakes - stocked with brown rainbow trout. There are 35 members of the syndicate a good number - coming right across the board from a director of Barclays Bank to a local scrap metal merchant. I chose people very carefully, by interview, to make sure that

they're not going to abuse the free system. I don't like the sort of person who talks about the masses of fish he catches or who hauls fish out for the sake of it.

We have boat and bank fishing: single fly, wet, dry or nymph. We don't allow hares, the whole idea, if you're a sporting man, is to fly-fish. A full rod costs £248 a year an allows you to fish every day in season. You're limited to seven fish a week or two on any one day. If you fish on, you buy. Half rods cost £138 and you can fish for three days a month on any day of your choice. There

are a number of vacancies each year, but very few members leave. When you're out in the middle of the lake you know the phone isn't going to ring and you never really know what's there though you've heard talk of or seen "the big one". Members are not required to contribute any labour; I have a bailiff for that. I expect members to respect each other and the fish.

This year for instance, one night the water temperature was on a lethal limit for trout, and we lost 300. Otherwise we leave people very much alone.

HORSE TRADING

Henry Ponsonby (right) syndicate manager of Shefford Bloodstock Services

The racing Establishment has always rather looked down its nose at syndicates. At first the Jockey Club didn't like the whole idea of working class people owning horses, and never contemplated people putting together syndicates professionally. Now they must see the benefits. If I were to count up all the money that's gone back

into racing since I started business in 1977, it would amount to about £750,000 - money the sport would not have had but for syndication. The maximum permitted size of a race-horse owner's syndicate is 12 people, and no person can be a member of more than 12 syndicates, though you can be in as many partnerships of up to four people as you like and can have between 5,000 and 15,000 members in a company such as we've just launched for only £200 per share.

When I started business 40 per cent of my owners were probably in the hotel trade. Then we had green-grocers, Leyland shop

stewards, printers, retired army officers, sons of peers of the realm, policemen - and masses of women. A lot of men bought shares for wives or girlfriends. Now there are a lot more up-market people - chairmen, company directors. People buy in because owning a racehorse is glamorous. If you own a horse you can rub shoulders with the rich and famous. We had a horse running at Cheltenham in the same race as the Queen Mother's horse, both trained by Fulke Walwyn. We've beaten Sangster's horses and the Queen's, and with the new company our aim is to win the Derby.



ROOM SERVICE

Christopher Chapman (left) vice chairman of the Prestige Hotels

Concurrence and Managing Director of his own, family-run hotel.

There are not that many smart, privately owned hotels left in Britain but there is a growing demand for the kind of quality that used to be associated with the best British hotels, nostalgia for comfort and service and good food and personal attention. Although

the hotels in the group are very different, we all pride ourselves on the high standards we try to achieve, but there is no way in which we could individually afford to do so if we hadn't joined together. This way we can afford a central London office and a full-time marketing executive, and an overseas representative - particularly important for us in North America, where so many of our guests come from.

Because of the very high standards we set there is a natural limit to the number of hotels who can join the group (we are 35 at present). We recently re-examined our standards and raised the minimum. Unfortunately there were some casualties but in the process we attracted others who said that previously they had hesitated to apply "because we didn't quite like all the company you were keeping".

Last year we had to double our subscription to £4,000 a year. We trust each other as individuals and as a group. All the hotels which apply to join are inspected continuously by our members, several times, before they are proposed. It's because of joint interests and joint surveillance that we are, I think a kind of elite.



Interviews by Judy Froshaug

THE BACK LEGS

Audrey Slaughter (above) former editor of *Over 21*, part owner of a racehorse

There's no way I could have afforded to buy a horse outright. But I like the glamour and excitement of the races the "feel" of gambling - all those working chaps putting their money on the last race and pretty girls hanging on to their hats - and I fancy the idea of swanking around a bit as

an owner, choosing the colours. Unfortunately all the best ones had gone. I used to say I'd love a share in a horse. Then a friend came along with a Jockey Club steward who's also a breeder and they found me Window Shopper, a very pretty two-year-old out of Town and Country and Watch 'em Go. She has a nice narrow head and isn't too long in the back. When we first bought her I hadn't an idea about all the extras that go with owning a horse - getting it registered with Wetherby's, paying the vet and the VAT and getting it a passport. Every month

you get these rather frightening bills! I am the chief shareholder, having five shares which cost £355 each. David Blacker, the steward, kept two and so did our friend Count Cucki, who was responsible for finding her, really. And a lady called Poppi, whom I haven't yet met, has the other three. I think the idea of owning a bit of a horse probably appeals to millions of women. I'm very pleased with ours. I've no desire to go and pat her nose or give her a sugar lump, but it must be lovely to lead in the winner!



THE SAME BOAT

Tony Chappell (left) managing director of Tarquim Timesharing

The cost of buying a small yacht is prohibitive to many people, but spread among 15 or 20 it becomes possible. We even have members who could afford to buy outright but don't want to make a large outlay on a boat they may use for only two weeks a year and which, for the remaining period, will be idle in the Mediterranean, deteriorating. And maintenance costs, alone, would be massive. People want ownership for a variety of reasons: many have found that yachting is a pleasant family activity but that sort of boat whose cost would come within their budget is not exactly

comfortable - a trailer-sailer or a speedboat for example. And then there's the glamour. As people's expectations develop they look at what their finances will allow against the style of life that is attainable. I regard the Trader 37 as equal in status to a four-bedroom villa in the South of France, near the sea, with its own swimming pool.

There's a fantastic cross-section of time sharers - a lot from the better professions (though no solicitors yet). People would feel inadequate on a yacht if their experience was so scant that they didn't have the confidence to anchor in the swish bays between the millionaires and summer up, like Charles Forte, a cessata from the ice-cream boat. There's no other social disqualification. On the Côte d'Azur the richest are the tatiest dressers, or those wear

BANG GANG

Jonathan Abbott (right) writer, and life-long shooter with his own syndicate

Shooting's an expensive sport, like yacht-racing, or polo, if you come in from outside. The best number of people to shoot with is about six, anything over eight is not really on, though you do sometimes find 10. In my father's day anything beyond that was referred to as a hotel shoot. A syndicate is a bit like Dad's Army - a lot depends on the people in it. It's never the same as a private shoot of course, but it's a matter of finance. The cost of running a shoot could be £12,000 a year if you had to pay for everything. Split between six of you it's feasible. It costs less of course if one of the things is free - say one member is a land-

owner, or a farmer, with a gamekeeper.

There are various kinds of syndicates - shared-expenses syndicates, wandering syndicates. Some landowners are deterred by the whole idea and invite people to pay to shoot. The danger with this is that those who are paying are often suspicious that they're not getting the best shooting but are paying for the owner to shoot with his friends in the best woods or on Boxing Day.

Anyone with the slightest bit of intelligence who can produce a place to shoot and someone to look after it could form a syndicate: that part isn't difficult - it's the people. There are an awful lot of winners about. The rules are simple: respect the shoot and obey the captain.

Interviews by Judy Froshaug

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THE TIMES DIARY

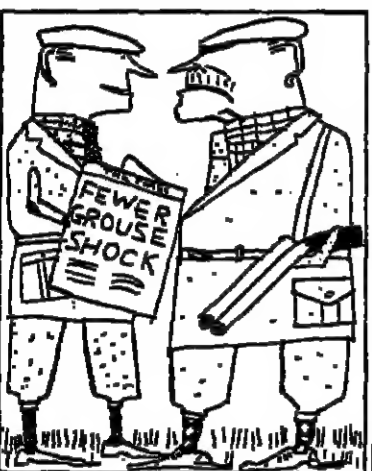
Diary divide

There will be a fringe beyond the fringe at this year's Labour Party conference in Brighton. Party headquarters had refused to list in the conference diary meetings organized by groups which are not on the official register. That includes, of course, the Socialist and Socialist for Labour Victory, Briefing, Labour Campaign on Ireland, and the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign. *Tribune* received an invitation to list details of its meeting. Ken Livingstone's paper, *Labour Herald*, did not (though it may yet be admitted). Mandy Moore of Socialists for Labour Victory says her organization will aim to get an "alternative diary" with a comprehensive list of the week's events into the hands of every delegate. "It is the diary which most delegates follow when deciding how to spend their evenings," she says, "so being excluded is quite important."

String along

PHSausages jokes are coming in as thick and fast, as today as the sausages themselves, of which the classic wartime memory is that they were half bread because butchers found it difficult to make both meat and bread, and so customers did not know whether to put mustard on them or marmalade. The popular favourite of the moment is the man who goes to the doctor and says: "My friends all say I'm mad because I like sausages." "That's no problem - I rather like sausages myself." "Oh good - you can come round and see my collection." Today's British Sausage Time clock, though, goes to A. Smith of SE13 for this risible riddle: "Why did Harold Wilson want the ketchup?" "Because he was past the sauce age (passed the sausage)." Oh dear, I think I've burst my skin.

BARRY FANTONI



"Cheer up! I've just seen a brace of animal liberators!"

The leader...

National pride may not be appropriate on such an occasion, but it is true that the European Community Youth Orchestra, who give their first Prom tonight, include more British players than from any other EEC nation. Of the 134 players chosen from 4,000 who auditioned, 44 are British. Next most numerous are the Germans, with 20 fewer.

Daisy, Daisy!

I have had a polite phone call from Her Majesty the Queen for the University Press offering the literary immortality to the winner of our Saturday competition to fill the gap in the manuscript of Daisy Ashford's *The Life of Father McSwiney*, but only if we correct a misprint which crept in. When the second edition of the book is published Dr Hardy hopes to include the winning entry (suitably asterisked) so as to complete the sense of the Pope's après-thé activities. But the gap which has to be filled is of about 34 words between "in his Public" and "was rather" and about three words between "was rather" and "they caught the fleas". Aspiring imitators of four-year-old prose style please note.

Underhand

A sharp dispute has arisen between the leading auction houses and the Victoria & Albert Museum. It concerns the latter's cricket team, which is alleged to be full of riggers. The V & A recently played Sotheby's, and the auctioneers claim the antecedents of their team will be closely scrutinized. "It is no good playing feeble types who turn out in Fiorucci track suits and stand on the boundary remarking the too, too Turnersque sky, oblivious to the ball flying past them," says the V & A's captain, Nicky Bird. "Our players all have a connexion with the Museum. Our opening bowler, for example, sheltered in the doorway during a shower. We feel it is not how you play the game, but whether you win or lose."

This is the product of four years' high-powered market research and is the most British Airports Authority and Breadwinners Ltd. concessionaires for a line of souvenirs that are expected to smarten up the unacceptable face of aviation in this country. Badges, T-shirts, even teddy bears are on offer to catch the air traveller at an impressionable age and fix a cuddly image in his tiny mind. Harry Heathrow, Gary Catwick, Stanley Stansted, Gordon Glasgow, Percy Prestwick and Archie Aberdeen are merely the vanguard in a merchandising experiment that Breadwinners is confident will take off in a big way. PHS

Philip Towle warns against the new spirit of Gaullism

Nationalism, the threat to Nato



John Nott, echoing the line set by de Gaulle. Right, Senator Stevens, a trend to a new isolationism

In proportion to their influence, too much attention is devoted to the minority who criticize Nato strategy from the left and too little to the attitudes of the general public and to those who criticize it from the centre or right - the "neo-Gaullists". This latter group, which includes a number of European politicians, some close to power, is more influential and therefore a far more insidious long-term threat to the Atlantic alliance than the small and obviously demoralized membership of CND, whose policies have been massively rejected at the polls.

Mr John Nott, the former Defence Secretary, declared himself a Gaullist and supported the Trident programme as a hedge against Nato's collapse. Healey Bull, Professor of International Relations at Oxford, has said that the US has subordinated European defence to the interests of its world struggle with the Soviet Union. He has called for the formation of a European alliance within Nato and the development of a European nuclear force.

Sir James Cables, former head of the Foreign Office Planning Staff, has called Britain's dependence on the US an addictive drug and suggested that it may have contributed to our national decline. He has also called for Britain to follow the French lead in defence policy, to close the US bases here and to limit Britain's commitment to the alliance mainly to maritime forces.

None of these quoted would like to see the precipitate collapse of Nato (and neither of course did de Gaulle) but by suggesting that the alliance may disappear or that we should weaken our commitment to it, they advocate policies which could set in train an irreversible movement towards such a collapse. This is particularly so because their criticism coincides with growing attacks on the alliance from many Americans who resent the discrepancy between the US and European defence budgets.

When Nato was established in 1949 the US was the greatest economic power in history and it seemed reasonable to ask it to protect the impoverished Europeans. By agreeing to this request Washington overturned all the foreign policy traditions which the US had built up since independence. But today the Europeans are not impoverished; wages in Copenhagen or Hamburg are now generally as good as those in Detroit or Dallas. Yet in 1981 the Americans spent \$782 per head on defence while the Danes spent \$280.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the traditional US hostility towards involvement in Europe has shown signs of revival, and that the Republican whip in the Senate, Senator Ted Stevens, and others have sought to reduce the US forces stationed in Europe.

Is the time then ripe for a mutually agreed divorce? In July 1969 *The Times* declared, "At present 250 million people in Western Europe rely on 200 million Americans to defend them from 200 million Russians although the Russians have 700 million angry Chinese at their backs. This proposition has only to be stated for it to be seen to be unreasonable."

Since then that proposition has been put with increasing frequency and force. On the other hand, if 350,000 American servicemen stationed in Western Europe, and the

premise of a million more to come in a crisis, have failed to reassure the West Europeans or to convince European military strategists that a Russian attack could be defeated without the use of nuclear weapons, how could Europe defend itself?

Without US support for the Europeans the Warsaw Pact would have a comfortable three to one advantage over the West in the main elements of conventional military power, tanks and aircraft. Soviet submarines would dominate the oceans and the Soviet nuclear preponderance would be absolute.

There is no prospect that the West European governments would undertake the huge defence spending needed to rectify so great an imbalance. Nor is it desirable that they should make economic and social sacrifices on such a scale.

If Nato were to collapse, the most probable immediate outcome is that Western Europe would dissolve into a confused medley of states, some trying to defend themselves, some hoping that their very weakness would save them from the effects of conflict elsewhere, others seeking an accommodation with Moscow.

It would be optimistic to assume that the Europeans would cooperate to defend themselves. But were they to do so their defences would still be much less effective than at present, and if they tried to make them effective they would be vastly more expensive. Alliances have been

incomparably the most successful arms control measures evolved since 1945.

The only advantage which the Europeans might acquire from the break-up of Nato would be a slight reduction in the risks of becoming involved in a war which began somewhere else in the world. But this cannot be taken for granted: in most cases Europe's strategic interests in the Third World coincide with those of the US, while, if the US and Soviet Union were to go to war, it is inconceivable that a strategically vital area such as Europe would be left unscathed.

If Nato did collapse we should most certainly try to fashion an adequate West European defence. But we should be aware of the magnitude of the problems involved. West Europeans can still do much, if they so choose, to strengthen the cohesion and military effectiveness of the alliance by increasing their share of the defence burden to a more equitable level and thereby working out a mutually acceptable relationship with the US.

But if the alliance did disintegrate, through a combination of insurmountable tensions and flawed perceptions of interest, no alternative strategy - whether in the form of neutralism or of military cooperation among the Europeans - could ensure the long-term security of Europe as effectively as the alliance has done in the past. It is above all in the period of uncertainty and confusion which would follow the collapse of Nato that each state would be most vulnerable to Soviet threats and blandishments and the dangers of war would be most acute.

The author is a Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge. His article is based on a monograph, *Europe Without America: Could We Defend Ourselves?* published by the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, 13-14 Golden Square, London W1.

Lest we forget: the great memorials

White elephants or national heritage? Gillian Tindall previews an exhibition opening in London tomorrow



Stone to dust? Nature gradually reclaims Nunhead cemetery in south London

The grave may not be either a fine or private place, but the law protects it today far more assiduously than it does the abode of the living: a dead body has a more secure tenure of its six feet of earth than any house occupied in life. Tenants can be evicted, property compulsorily purchased, whole districts can be, and have been, swept away - but a special Act of Parliament is commonly needed to dislodge the dead from their resting place. Even where this does not apply (in the municipal cemeteries as opposed to the privately owned ones) the public health-cum-ecclesiastical regulations covering the removal and reinterment of remains offer a formidable deterrent.

In any case there is such popular prejudice against digging up the dead that local authorities will not usually risk an outcry by suggesting it, and such property companies as have felt a passing temptation towards what they assume to be a choice piece of potential real estate have almost always changed their minds and slunk off when the realities of the situation have been made plain to them. It has proved extremely difficult for cemetery owners to sell off even unconsecrated and unused segments of their land; at both Highgate in north London and Nunhead in the south such a scheme has been mooted at one time or another in an attempt to stave off the imminent bankruptcy of the companies concerned, and in both instances the protests were such that the scheme was abandoned.

People don't much want to look after their local cemeteries or pay for

them to be looked after, but they have a largely unfounded dread of anyone putting them to any other use. Even attempts to turn old burial grounds into gardens, the one use readily sanctioned by the law, can become contentious.

Both Highgate and Nunhead offer a fine example of a further paradox in a topic riddled with ironies. Both were established, in 1839 and 1840 respectively, by the London Cemetery Company; with 37 and 52 acres apiece, they were part of the hygienic (and profitable) movement of the times to remove death from the "choked charnel houses" of the City churchyards and install it more commodiously in spacious suburban grounds. Yet a hundred-odd years later, history has come around in a circle: Highgate, Nunhead, Tower Hamlets and the like have, in turn, become choked with the dead and with their dilapidated, funerary furniture, and once again words such as "decay", "disease" and "desecration" are invoked in a plea that someone should do something about the situation. A wild garden is all very well, but a vandalized jungle defeats every purpose. Most of the once-profitable companies are extinct or in liquidation, their one capital asset transformed into a remarkable but appalling white

elephant for which no one wants to be financially responsible.

The very cult of death which has exacerbated the problem of the dead. For centuries, most people were buried simply in wooten shrouds, and wooden crosses were the norm: returning to dust meant just that because, within a hundred years, both visible and invisible relics obligingly rotted away. The universal use of the coffin and the general introduction of stone memorials in the eighteenth century changed all that - and indeed subverted the whole purpose of consigning a body to the earth.

The private family grave, purchased "in perpetuity" and marked by a substantial edifice, is a logical absurdity, a vain assertion of the social and economic values of this life and their power to transcend even mortality.

Thus the final paradox is that these old cemeteries have no value as an evocation of loved individuals - they evoke, rather, the knockabout drama of tump-tump-bogies and ghouls - but they are valuable as a social record and as a repository of sculpture. Highgate's horse, lion and recumbent dog are well known - and may be viewed again in photographs, at the exhibition, at the

Museum of London - but almost all the big London cemeteries and many of the provincial ones have a line in weeping angels, be-willed urns and eccentric canopies.

Quis custodiet? The sums of money once paid by the grave owners to have them looked after have been rendered derisory by time, inflation and the inroads of nature; and in any case, these works of art, in their now-wild setting, are not private property but a public legacy. William Morris's dictum, originally applied to buildings, seems apposite to cemeteries also: "These... do not belong to us only. They belonged to our forefathers and will belong to our descendants unless we play them false... We are only trustees for those who will come after us."

Yes, but who are to be the trustees? Local authorities, understandably, are either unwilling or inefficient in assuming the burden of the upkeep of what is not just a local institution: bodies of local people may be dedicated but lack both real power and funds. This month an appeal for Highgate is being launched - but the real need is a campaign for a national body comparable with the National Trust to assume overall control for what is, after all, a national asset.

Why the sugar isle is in such a stir

Port Louis, Mauritius

As the campaign for the Mauritian general election on Sunday enters the final lap, most of the smart political money in this Indian Ocean sugar island is on the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) of 38-year-old Paul Béranger, a member of the white Franco-Mauritian minority, to win by a short head. But the wisest punters are hedging their bets. For, as the wily former agriculture minister, Sir Satsam Soolee, puts it, "today's enemy can be tomorrow's friend."

It is only 14 months since Mauritius, 720 square miles of coral-fringed volcanic rock inhabited by a racially mixed population of more than 900,000, last went to the polls and swept the left-wing MMM into power in alliance with the smaller Parti Socialiste Mauricien (PSM). The alliance won all 62 directly elected seats.

The octogenarian Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the Hindu doctor who had led Mauritius for 14 years since independence from Britain, and had dominated the local political scene for a decade before that, failed to gain a seat.

The victorious alliance had not been in power for more than a few weeks, however, before its leaders were squabbling among themselves. It survived a political crisis last October and limped on until March 22 when Mr Béranger, the Finance Minister, resigned with 10 cabinet colleagues, claiming he was not getting full support for the unpopu-

lar measures needed to straighten out the country's parlous finances.

The Prime Minister, Anerood Jugnauth, a 53-year-old Hindu who trained as a lawyer in Britain and had been president of the MMM since 1973, parted company with Mr Béranger, the MMM's founder, and formed a new party, the Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM), but he did not have a clear majority and was forced to call an election.

The MSM consists of Mr Jugnauth and some other Indian defectors from the MMM, plus virtually the whole of the PSM, whose youthful leader, Harish Boodhoo, represents a populist Hindu conservatism that has developed distinctly communalist and anti-white overtones. Mr Jugnauth and Mr Boodhoo accuse Mr Béranger of being power-hungry and of betraying the "socialist" cause for which they fought together last year.

This however, has not stopped the MSM from forming an alliance with the discredited Labour Party of Sir Seewoosagur.

Mr Béranger has his own credibility gap. He was largely responsible for the strong emphasis in last year's MMM-PSM manifesto on redistributing wealth, raising living standards and improving welfare services. But it was he, as Finance Minister, who had to announce to the public the postponement of most of these programmes because of the economic stringencies required by the World Bank and the International

Monetary Fund in return for financial assistance.

At the bank's urging, Mr Béranger reduced the controversial export duty on sugar. The sugar industry, which furnishes more than three-quarters of Mauritius' foreign exchange earnings, is in real financial difficulty, but it is also controlled by the *grands blancs*, the white Franco-Mauritian minority. Mr Béranger thus laid himself open to the thinly veiled racial taint of being a lackey of (white) big business.

Certainly, it is paradoxical that Mr Béranger, the radical firebrand who learnt his politics on the student barricades in Paris in 1968, built his political career in Mauritius on trade union organization, and was even imprisoned for a year in the early 1970s, is now privately the preferred candidate of many conservative Mauritian businessmen. Mauritius' foreign creditors also see him as the man best equipped to get the economy back on the rails.

The history of Mauritius is as surprising as its politics. Uninhabited for most of recorded history, it was colonized sporadically by the Dutch in the seventeenth century and settled permanently in 1721 by the French, who imparted their culture and language on the island, established the sugar industry and introduced African slaves. Their mixed blood descendants now form the Creole population and their pidgin French dialect is the nearest thing to a lingua franca.

In 1810 the French were defeated

by the British, who abolished slavery and instead imported indentured labour from India. Today 69 per cent of the population are Indians (52 per cent Hindus and 17 per cent Muslims), 25 per cent Creoles and 6 per cent Franco-Mauritians and Chinese.

This racial and cultural witch's brew has developed into one of the liveliest multi-party democracies in the world. The high quality (mainly French) press is unfettered, the judiciary is independent and there are no political prisoners. It is entirely in keeping with Mauritius' record that it may now become the first country under black majority rule to elect a white prime minister.

Whichever group comes to power will have to operate for some years within the narrow limits set by the IMF and the World Bank. The island is heavily in debt, one in every four Mauritians of working age is unemployed, most of the jobs being in the 15-24 age group, and the sugar industry has been operating at a loss for several years.

In practice, there are restraints on foreign policy, too, despite the radical rhetoric of the MMM on non-alignment. Nor is anyone seriously contemplating any action that might disrupt the lucrative South African tourist trade.

All the main contending parties are pledged to turn Mauritius into a republic within the Commonwealth under a non-executive president.

Michael Hornsby

Gerald Kaufman

When a ticket to the top cost 1s 4d

Two months after its disaster in the general election the Labour Party is still in a condition of shock. This is healthy - it would have been unhealthy if party members had shrugged off the events of June 9 as just another setback, easily capable of being put right after a gentle period of reassessment. Very few have made that ostrich-like mistake. Indeed, there has been an almost masochistic tendency to pile on the gloom.

Many Members of Parliament who narrowly squeaked home (often in constituencies previously regarded as safe), rather than congratulating themselves and each other on their survival have instead in many cases been assessing their chances of re-election next time with some pessimism. In analysis after analysis, prominent Labour figures have harshly demonstrated not only the near-elimination of the party's support in vast tracts of the country, but also the disturbing drift away from Labour in areas whose staunch loyalty was for generations taken for granted.

Even the ludicrously protracted leadership election has brought its benefits. The party's candidates, unable to keep silent during the four-month campaign, have issued manifestos, written articles, delivered speeches, taken part in debates. As well as making ritual speeches about aspects of policy, they have felt obliged again and again to return to discussing the state of the party. That some of their conclusions seem to me to be mistaken is not the point. In thinking hard about the party's principles, its role, its discouraging recent past and its discouraging potential for the future, they have enabled - perhaps forced - the membership to participate in that thinking process too.

The leadership election process itself has been inevitably subjected to reappraisal, little of it favourable. The party of the people - as it still thinks of itself - has been compelled unhappily to accept that for the first time in 80 years anyone seeking its highest offices has to have money. Affiliated organizations demand copies, sometimes in the thousands, of statements by candidates; the cost of production and of postage is phenomenal. Candidates have to tour the country, addressing Labour Party and trade union meetings; the travelling expenses are considerable.

When Harold Wilson was elected leader 20 years ago, his election expenses totalled 1s 4d (the cost of telephone calls asking over-ardent supporters not to canvass for him). Now the Labour press is full of appeals by campaign managers for

campaigning funds. Many have come to believe that this is not the way to conduct Labour Party elections.

Again, the internal democracy of the trade unions has become a subject of debate, in a manner not agreeable to many leading unions but extremely salutary for the prospects of genuine democracy within those unions. Decisions to favour one candidate or another, if made by an executive council or a delegate conference, have been unconvincedly defended. Even consultation of members, embarked upon with whatever good intentions, has often been cumbersome, incompetent or faulty. It is clear that, even if the electoral college survives in its present form, it will be difficult to repeat these elephantine procedures in future contests. If this election convinces unions that they will have to put their own house in order, such a conversion will undermine many of the glib arguments that Norman Tebbit has used in seeking to vindicate his recently published anti-trade union proposals.

Labour activists know that the party cannot be allowed to drift, simply because events - instead of allowing such a drift, will provide an almost non-stop series of tests by which Labour's efforts at recovery will be gauged. By-elections will come along and Pearnth, providing Labour with yet another lost deposit has demonstrated that unless the apparently remorseless electoral trend is reversed, each by-election could be a further milestone along the road of the party's decline. In little more than nine months will come the local elections, and shortly after them the elections to the European Assembly, in which Labour could have difficulty in defending even its present poor representation.

Labour on June 9 was sustained, insofar as it was sustained at all, by the residual loyalty of 28 per cent of the electorate. Many of those voters were giving a final chance to the party of their parents and grandparents. Each of these previous supporters, as well as the allegiance of new voters, will have to be won anew every time the polling booths open. Labour cannot afford to take a single elector for granted any longer. The next hurdle will come at the party conference, now less than seven weeks away. Even if that hurdle is surmounted, there will still be more ahead capable of sending the party sprawling. If Labour fails at the first hurdle, many spectators may have lost interest by the time the next is reached.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Gorton

Anne Sofer

Palmy days for the council counsel

It is sometimes said that the group of people that benefited most from the French Revolution were lawyers. Those who kept their heads, that is. And it seems that the same thing is happening in London in these revolutionary times.

I am astonished that the Bar Council has not mounted a campaign to save the GLC. I had expected, by now, petitions and probing questions in Parliament. Or at the very least a letter to *The Times* signed by 20 eminent heads of chambers.

But perhaps it is happening after all - in an appropriately discreet manner, words in the ear of ministers at the Reform Club. That must be it.

The truth is that the Bar has done tremendously well out of the GLC in the last two years - as it has out of all the new left-wing councils. Since the traumatic shock of the Law Lords' decision on London Transport fares in late 1981, the evolving attitude of the left towards the law has been fascinating to watch. Tempted at first to rail at the whole legal system as merely an arm of capitalist oppression, and the judges as pawns of a Tory government, then to indulge in futile confrontationist tactics (the "Can't Pay, Won't Pay" campaign), they quickly came to realize that the law was an exciting game at which two could play. And it is fair to say that the Conservative forces that challenged the legitimacy of the fare reductions in the first place (Bromley Council *et al.*) have only themselves to blame for this development.

In any case the GLC Labour leaders found lawyers who told them that the Law Lords' judgment did not alter all that much what it said, and they could decrease fares. They found lawyers who told them they did not have to carry out the Ministry of Defence's civil defence exercises. When they had one legal opinion suggesting they would be at risk of personal surcharge if they did not put up the price of school meals, they had little difficulty in finding another to say they could perfectly legitimately keep it where it was.

They have even (and here's an irony for the party of the trade unionism) got legal advice on how to act unilaterally in imposing decisions on their own staff association.

The law on local authority powers and discretion is based on the anachronistic assumption that there is a consensus among all thinking men and women about what is "reasonable". Councillors are obliged by law to act in a way that is not unreasonable. The leading legal definition of this term is Lord Green's judgment in the celebrated "Wednesbury Corporation" case of 1967. This dictum, though it is always quoted with veneration, is not much help, being entirely opaque and tautologous. It reads, *inter alia*: "Unreasonable" is a

general description of what must not be done."

What happy days of noblesse oblige when everybody in power could agree on what was done and not done. And indeed it lasted a surprisingly long time. During the nine years I have been in local government, the first seven were spent in the innocent belief that I was elected to take decisions on the basis of my own judgment, and I never thought of taking legal advice. What thin years these must have been for the local government bar.

All that is changed. With consensus gone, with challenges to the status quo mounting in volume and bitterness from all sides, we do not feel safe even to open our mouths, let alone raise our hands to vote, without a council's opinion - and usually two or three.

But of course, since the law depends on a definition of the most subjective of terms - (not only "reasonable" but "proper" and "relevant"), it is not too difficult to find lawyers to suit political taste. Barristers are people too, after all, and the range of their political beliefs stretches from the crustiest old reactionaries on the right whose view of civic responsibilities goes back to the post law and the workhouse - to those trendy left transvestites of the Temple (wig and gown and m'learned friend by day, denims and CND badge and combed by night) whose vision is of the new collectivist dawn. (For some of the latter the growth in local government work has brought not only liberty but liberation: they have been enabled to "come out" and are now sometimes seen around County Hall wearing their evening rig in daylight.)

One of the ironies of the present situation is that it seems to be proving a favourite maxim of the Prime Minister that private enterprise always performs better than the state. The freelance barristers we employ always seem to outwit the parliamentary draftsmen. Indeed, maybe the Bar will do even better out of the Government's forthcoming direct assault on local government than it has done out of the present cold war. Just as the tax lawyers always find ways of keeping their clients' money out of the clutches of the Inland Revenue, so these new magicians of the local government Bar will find loopholes through which to preserve local government's powers.

As an old friend of mine who is both a barrister and a former distinguished leader of a local authority always used to say when contemplating some new and particularly astute piece of legislation: "Well, it all makes work for the working man to do!" And so it will no doubt. With thousands on the brief.

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THE TURKISH QUESTION

Can Turkey still stay as a Western ally when she returns to democracy again? Can she believe her allies when they agreed with "Evenism" in her most critical days? Can Turkey rely on these countries again?

Those questions are asked in a document which, as reported in *The Times* last week, emanates from the sixteen Turkish political leaders of right and left who have been interned since June 2 in the dissolved radar station at Zindirbozan, near Canakkale on the Dardanelles. The authors of the document may not have intended it for publication, or at least may not have wished to be publicly associated with it. But there is no doubt that it does accurately reflect their views, and that they wished these views to be known in opinion-forming and policy-making circles in Europe and the United States.

The questions are in any case ones which such circles should be asking themselves with increasing discomfort. Up to now the prevailing tendency in the West has been to give General Evren and his regime the benefit of the doubt. They did, after all, put an end to the terrorism that was claiming twenty lives a day when they took over in September 1980, and to the parliamentary stalemate which had paralysed Turkey's political system. They allowed Mr Turgut Ozal, the monetarist guru of the incumbent government, to carry on his work of stabilising Turkey's finances and restoring her foreign credit.

Periodic military interventions to put the country back on course are hardly unprecedented in Turkey. There was one in 1969, another in 1971, both of which were followed by a fairly swift resumption of the democratic process. The generals of 1980 promised to do the same again, only to make a more thorough job of it this time.

That, to the political establishment both in Turkey itself and in the West, is what they appeared at first sight to be doing. True, in the process they arrested very large numbers of people, and there was a growing body of

evidence that many of those people were tortured during interrogation. But the scale of terrorism to be dealt with seemed to justify a large number of arrests, and - unhappily - torture had been by no means unknown in Turkey even under civilian government.

True, the limitations on freedom of expression seemed rather draconian, but they were widely assumed to be only a temporary aspect of martial law. True, the constitution promulgated last year seemed rather heavily weighted in favour of the executive power and against the freedom of the individual, but that was perhaps a necessary prophylactic against the excesses of the 1970s. True, the referendum held to ratify it was hardly a free and fair choice, but rather than quibble about that it was surely better to accept the result and get back to civilian rule?

Sustained by such arguments, politicians and media alike, in the West, have more or less consciously applied a lower standard to the regime's performance on human and civil rights than they would to any other European country, west or east. The long drawn out trial of twenty-seven intellectuals, including a retired ambassador (brought to court shaven-headed, refused permission to go abroad for cancer treatment, and now facing a probable ten-year prison sentence) for the heinous crime of forming a "peace association", has generally received down-pat treatment. The American government seems unperturbed by the fact that the correspondent of United Press International was beaten up when he applied for a passport and has still not been given one five months later, in spite of written assurance to the contrary from the Turkish ambassador in Washington. One can imagine the reaction if a Polish journalist working for an American news agency were to be similarly treated.

Why? Because Turkey, unlike Poland, is part of the West. Because martial law had been introduced there to save democracy, not to stamp it out. Or so we thought, and so - it is fair to say - many mainstream Turkish politicians thought until this year. But such a view is becoming less tenable.

The purge of universities this spring, directed not merely against Marxists but against even the most mildly left-leaning liberals, was hardly the act of a regime intending to restore democracy in any meaningful sense. Even so, the authorisation of political parties in April, in preparation for the elections due in November, seemed to offer a chance for free debate to resume.

The real moment of truth came on May 31, when the regime banned the first of the new parties that seemed likely to win substantial popular support and ordered the detention of Mr Süleyman Demirel, the oft-re-elected conservative prime minister of the past two decades, along with thirteen other former politicians and two of the new party's would-be founders. Since then it has vetoed personalities to prevent other potentially popular parties, of both left and right, from reaching the quota of thirty founding members which it has itself fixed. The deadline for formation of parties is now fast approaching and it is clear that only those whose leaders have been hand-picked by the generals will be allowed to qualify. Even they will have to submit their lists of candidates to a further veto.

Democracy means allowing the people to make their own choices - which, it now appears, is precisely what Turkey's generals are unwilling to do. In these circumstances it will be difficult for the rest of the world to accept the government that emerges from the elections (if they are held) as genuinely representative of the Turkish people. It looks as though what is planned is not, after all, the restoration of democracy but the legitimisation of continued military rule.

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RUSSIA'S GEORGIAN FRIENDS

Nationalist demonstrations in the Soviet republic of Georgia are disrupting the authorities' efforts to mark the bicentenary of the Treaty of Georgievsk which in August 1783 placed Eastern Georgia under Russian protectorate. Explaining why, in this age of decolonization, the countries incorporated into the Russian empire are still ruled by the Russian capital presents a major problem for the Soviet leadership, which generally tries to portray such an anniversary as a "manifestation of friendship" between the Russian people and the minority nation. The minorities are told that their historic ties with Russia, raised to new level by the 1917 Revolution, have assured them a higher degree of civilization than they could have achieved independently. There is some truth in this claim, but it is not an argument which now receives much support in an international forum such as the United Nations, nor is it accepted by nationalists in the USSR.

Last month about a hundred people demonstrated in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, demanding the release of two young nationalists arrested for circulating leaflets calling for a boycott of the official anniversary celebrations; they argued that the treaty became "the basis for the annexation of Georgia". Five demonstrators were arrested and a further twenty were detained

but later released after police interrogation. Various illegal journals are circulating clandestinely in the republic; in *Sakartvelo*, for example, several prominent Georgian historians are cited to refute the Soviet propaganda line on the 1783 treaty. Recently a young history student, David Berdzenishvili, was arrested and charged with editing the unofficial journal *Samvelo* (The Bell Tower) which is described as the "organ of the Republican Party of Georgia".

Georgian civilization in fact has much deeper historical roots than that of the Russian people. A Georgian kingdom is recorded in the third century B.C. and Georgia has been Christian since 337 A.D. The Georgian alphabet is unique and predates Cyrillic by centuries; the earliest preserved Georgian writing dates back to the fifth century. The Christian Russians to the north seemed natural protectors for the Georgians who were repeatedly under attack from the Turks and Persians in the south but protection came at the cost of annexation by the expanding Russian Empire. In May 1920 the hard-pressed Soviet government signed a treaty recognizing Georgian independence and sovereignty, but ten months later the Red Army occupied the independent state and established Bolshevik rule. Georgia's famous son Joseph Dzhughashvili

- better known as Stalin - had no sympathy for "bourgeois nationalism" in his homeland. Georgians joke that in a fair exchange "the Russians gave us communism; we gave them Stalin".

The republic's main Russian-language newspaper *Zarya Vostoka* is running regular features on the bicentenary as a "remarkable festival of friendship and fraternity". It recently reported that the aim was "the active propaganda of the wise Leninist nationality policy of the party, the educating of workers in a spirit of devotion to the ideas of eternal friendship between the Georgian and Russian peoples". But it is an uphill struggle; the evidence of nationalist discontent persists. In 1977 Vladimir Zhvaniya was sentenced to death for bomb attacks on public buildings. In 1978, after demonstrations in Tbilisi, the authorities agreed to confirm Georgian as the republic's official language in the new constitution. Students of Tbilisi University have frequently demonstrated in defence of their national heritage. In 1981 about a thousand students successfully demanded the reinstatement of a professor dismissed for his ideologically suspect lectures on Georgian literature. Further demonstrations and protests seem likely before the official celebrations reach their peak in October.

THE WATCHERS ON THE LOCH

It is difficult to be neutral about the Loch Ness Monster. Like the virtues and attributes of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Tony Benn or Miss Koo Stark, people of all sorts and conditions tend to express firmish views on the subject. In at least one household the beast is humped with the Abominable Snowman and God by inquisitive children as a test of their parents' propensity for faith. It can be difficult explaining to a four-year-old that the Almighty is in a rather different league from the other two.

Of the three, despite the efforts of the World Council of Churches, in Vancouver, the Monster attracted the most headlines last week. Loch Ness, it seems, is humming with electronic gadgetry as hunters try, fifty years since the first sighting by Mrs Mackay of

Drummadrochit, to snatch data, photographic and/or sonic, which will prove beyond all doubt that the creature exists. Though heavy sceptics will not be convinced until it is captured alive or in carcass form.

Last week's pictures of the vessel "The New Atlantis" plying the deep, mysterious waters in the shadow of Urquhart Castle - the photogenic setting of so many sightings - was, in a strange way, depressing. New technology versus the prehistoric seems a bit unfair. Unlike a nuclear powered submarine the Monster cannot take countermeasures, short of rearing up suddenly and paralyzing the ship's skipper with fright or overturning the boat altogether.

On a deeper level, too, it was disturbing. After the initial stage of curiosity had abated, would it

not seem tragic if the beast's existence was proven, particularly if it was brought into captivity? The poetry would drain from Loch Ness. There would be a sense of loss, of mystery and magic punctured, like the replacement of steam locomotives by diesels or the Latin Mass by the vernacular. There is, of course, a school of thought which treats the whole monster affair as an early and immensely successful job creation scheme invented in 1933 by an enterprising journalist on the *Inverness Courier*. If true, it would be a pity if that play was rumbled as well. May the watchers on the loch have a happy holiday. May they take some good holiday snaps. More shots of that head and neck and those marvellous humps would be most welcome. But, most of all, may their success be partial.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Implications of green belt guidance

From Mr Sydney Chapman, MP for Chipping Barnet (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader on green belt policy (August 8) puts the recent Government draft circular in its proper and wider context. As you rightly judge, the circular has caused consternation to at least one MP representing part of an outer London borough containing a substantial wedge of green belt.

The draft circular is vague if not contradictory. If the final circular issued is not materially altered, I will, I fear, cause totally different interpretations to be put upon it by the public, local planning authorities and potential developers.

For example, paragraph 11 of the draft circular states: "... the Government continue to attach great importance to the use of green belts to contain the sprawl of built-up areas and to safeguard the neighbouring countryside from encroachment..." This is a fair summary of the definition and purpose of green belts.

Yet two paragraphs later the assertion is made that "... if green belts are drawn excessively tightly around existing built-up areas it may not be possible to maintain the degree of permeability that they should have..."

Surely, if the policy is to be effective, their boundaries should be drawn tightly around built-up areas on the fringes of the metropolitan (and other) green belts?

One might interpret the draft circular, the danger is that it will encourage owners and agents to apply for planning permission on any suitable site fit for development and make it more difficult for authorities to resist. It is relevant to add here that interested third parties cannot appeal against any planning permission granted.

It may be that there are certain sites in designated or interim green belts which are detached from the principal open space, surrounded by built-up areas and unused and unsightly. Such sites might be better developed for housing, but they must be relatively few and far between.

I suggest local councils should identify such sites and invite public comment on them before releasing them, if appropriate, for development. Otherwise, the final circular

should be confined to stressing the success of green belts over the past four decades and the continuing need for authorities to be vigilant in protecting them from encroaching suburbs.

This is particularly necessary at a time when thousands of acres of land in the metropolis and other conurbations lie unused, under-used or derelict, and especially when London's first orbital motorway will be completed in three years with the consequent pressure for development all around it intensified.

Yours faithfully,
SYDNEY CHAPMAN,
Member of Commons.

From Mr R. W. G. Smith

Sir, One peg of the latest demand by the housebuilders for the release of green belt land for housing is that of "little amenity value", for example run-down sites, should be freed for building.

Parts of London's green belt are undoubtedly of much less scenic value than others, but that does not mean that they should be released for housing. The green belt is there to prevent expansion of towns and the swallowing up of countryside by building, and the scenic quality of the land is irrelevant.

It suits the development interests to pretend that the less attractive land might as well be built upon, but that misrepresentation of the nature of the green belt ought not to go unchallenged. The tragedy is that the Secretary of State for the Environment and some newspapers look like falling for the trick.

People living near run-down green belt sites attach great importance to them if it is all that they have to prevent the spread of the Great Wen. To sacrifice green belt to mollify (temporarily) the vociferous and greedy building industry would be extremely short-sighted and a tragedy for future generations.

Unsuitable sites can be rendered attractive and useful without surrendering them to builders. Surely it is not beyond our ingenuity to do that, and to meet any genuine housing needs elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. G. SMITH, Chairman,
The London Green Belt Council,
111 Billy Lows Lane,
Porters Bar, Hertfordshire.

Dissident's sentence

From Miss Mary Kernick and others

Sir, We wish to draw attention to, and protest most strongly against, the sentence of 14 months imprisonment followed by three years' house arrest imposed on Ladislav Lis, the Czech dissident whose imminent trial was mentioned in your newspaper on July 20.

Dr Lis was until recently spokesman for the Charter 77 Group, a member of VONS (the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Prosecuted) and a fearless campaigner for human rights in Czechoslovakia. We believe he is being persecuted purely and simply for his dissenting political views and continued association with Charter 77 - in fact one of the charges was "incitement against the socialist system".

He has been in and out of prison since 1977 and his medical condition, never good, is now parlous. He is reported to be coughing blood and suffering from a swelling on the left side of the chest, for which appropriate medication is denied. He and his family have been subjected to constant harassment and police surveillance, and his wife

is not receiving letters or allowed to visit him.

We believe that international publicity and pressure are an essential part of Amnesty's continuing campaign to secure the release of Dr Lis.

Yours faithfully,
MARY KERNICK,
FRANÇOISE DUBOIS,
ALFRED DUBOIS,
CLIVE SOLEY,
Camden Amnesty,
37 Hillmorton Road, N7.

Parental consent

From Mr Peter Schofield

Sir, Your correspondent Mrs Carole Chapman (August 5) appears to be under a misapprehension.

Your 16 to 18 year-old, whose parents misguidedly wish to obstruct a "wish to enter a stable, loving sexual relationship through marriage", has access to the courts, who in appropriate cases can and will give consent in the place of the parents.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. SCHOFIELD,
Faculty Law, University of Leeds,
Leeds.
August 5.

Curtain up

From Mr Arnold M. Crook and Mr Anthony Peek

Sir, We at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, take great exception to Sir Roy Strong's article of July 30. His reference to "that most elegant but now sadly run-down theatre" is completely misrepresents how the theatre looks and the public sees it. It is the political and economic gulf which exists between the subsidised and unsubsidised sectors of theatre?

In April, 1980, the licence fee imposed on the Haymarket by the GLC rose from £75 to £1,350 (this applied to all theatres). Since that date the licence fee has increased annually to £1,866. The fee, being based on seating capacity, means that some theatres of larger capacity instead of paying £75 as hitherto, are now paying £4,368; however, subsidised companies as registered charities pay only a nominal fee of £30. Additionally, whereas the rates paid by this theatre and others are in the five-figure category, those in the subsidised area are considerably less, as also are their rents.

The Haymarket is a class 1 listed building and, in company with all other occupiers of listed buildings, has as a result its cross to bear with its additional burdensome expenses.

Although we are unable to predict what may happen in the future (it may well be the title, "Curtains for our theatre heritage", is applicable), we look to it with more realism and enthusiasm than does Sir Roy.

Rather than complain one should be more positive in helping theatre. We at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, tirelessly pursue with vigour all avenues in an effort to improve its lot. Alas, in the corridors of power little attention is, at this moment, being paid to our pleas by those who could alleviate our position. People running theatres are dedicated and skilled professionals doing a difficult job very well indeed and it is support they require, not criticism.

Finally, in reviewing *A Patriot For Me* with Mr Alan Bates, which opened here on August 8 to an extremely high level of advance bookings, Mr Jack Tinker referred to the Haymarket as "this palace of establishment theatre".

This group has four of the most beautiful theatres in England, the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, the Strand, the Theatre Royal, Brighton and Richmond Theatre, and categorically none of them are "sadly run down".

ARNOLD M. CROOK, Chairman,
ANTHONY PEEK, Managing Director,
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1
August 10.

Yugoslavia's economy

From Mr Kurt Weisskopf

Sir, Your leader, Yugoslavia takes its medicine (August 3) does the efforts of that country credit, but not fully so. The stabilisation programme, prepared by the so-called Kraigher Commission was initiated early in 1982. Between that date, when this economic brains trust issued basic guidelines for long-term stabilisation, and July, 1983, when it published its long-term stabilisation programme, now approved by the Federal Assembly, it released 15 studies dealing with the principal aspects of Yugoslavia's economy.

If there is a common factor it has been the reiterated insistence on restraint as well as on the inviolability of self-management despite its imperfections. Economically Yugoslavia remains a consensus society. If any evidence is needed it is in the fact that for the last three years its people have accepted

unprotestingly a decline in their standard of living ranging between five and six per cent annually. You might argue that there has been unrest in Kosovo, but that situation could be likened to Ulster - there is more than one analogy.

There may have been over-investment, but had it not been for the oil crisis Yugoslavia would have managed with little foreign aid or perhaps even with none. But as the OECD Economic Survey on Yugoslavia, published on July 7, puts it, although Yugoslavia's problems remain "formidable" its authorities "are showing a remarkable resolve to achieve the stabilisation objectives by imposing sacrifices in real incomes and consumption for the third successive year and reducing the level of investment..." But, once again, the sacrifices have not been decreed. They are a result of persuasion and consensus.

Please allow me to correct your data on the level of unemployment

Alternative routes in quest for health

From Dr Richard D. Tonkin

Sir, Ruth West and Brian Inglis are right in the main substance of their arguments (August 8, 9, 10) for increased recognition of various different therapeutic techniques in the management of health and recovery from illness. But surely the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people lies in co-operation between conventional and what is more accurately termed complementary medicine.

To foster the false concept of orthodox scientific medicine as outdated and hazardous is highly dangerous. Scientific and complementary practices both have an important part to play in the health care of the public.

We agree that many of today's patients suffer from an imbalance of body function (disturbed homeostasis) which is closely related to personal and environmental factors. We also agree that many complementary therapies are eminently suitable for dealing with such *dis-ease*.

However, orthodox medicine still carries the responsibility for screening out a large number of organic conditions for which some direct action is more appropriate and without which serious complications and/or long term disability may result.

Finally, we must not lose sight of the fact that around half of all cases of cancer can now be successfully eliminated as a result of intensive research and the use of new technology and although the patient's own self healing capability is unquestionably of primary importance, it needs all the help it can get from these recent scientific discoveries.

Sincerely yours,
RICHARD D. TONKIN, Chairman,
Research Council for
Complementary Medicine,
37 Bedford Square, WC1.

From Mr R. G. Williams

Sir, The editorial, "Physician, heal thyself" (August 10) is a good example of scientism - that is to say the dressing up of a subject in the terms of science but containing very little of the actual content of science. In this particular sample the scientific approach has taken the form of the rejection of scientific method with a simultaneous appeal to science in the form of "the world of pure science".

The confused thought is instanced by the phrase "... and prefer to believe that all physical states can be examined and explained objectively". A physical state obviously can be measured or examined, since that is the defining quality of a physical state. Equally, a physical state can be explained objectively.

Labour leadership

From Mr Jeff Rooker, MP for Birmingham, Perry Bar (Labour)

Sir, Alan Sapper ("More like a nightmare ticket" - feature, August 11) presumes too much. How does he know that the Labour Party annual conference will vote year in year out the same way on each and every policy issue - for that is the only basis that he can write as he does about Labour leadership team "in line" and "in tune" with annual conference.

He glosses over in his last sentence the key point that the new leader will not be able to "carry out" any policies until he becomes Prime Minister. This is not an unimportant point.

He cites "a recent opinion poll" (unnamed) which gave a majority for increased taxation to be spent on improving social services as evidence that our policies were not understood. However, the 1979 British Election Study showed how fragile the support is on this point.

Seventy-one per cent were in favour of the statement that "government services such as health, education and welfare should be kept up even if it means that taxes cannot be reduced", whereas 71 per cent also agreed that "social services and benefits should be cut back". The divisive contest of 1981 and its aftermath made it impossible to begin the task of selling a policy which would be believed on this one issue he cites.

There is not a shred of evidence that either Roy Hattersley or Neil Kinnock wish to be surrounded by "yes men", indeed the opposite is the case. Leading the Labour Party to victory in the next general election is a somewhat different task than running a trade union. It's about time trade union leaders woke up to this.

Yours,
JEFF ROOKER,
House of Commons, SW1
August 11.

Objectivity is the whole basis of science.

Science is a discipline - i.e. the method is subject to rules. It is conformity to rules or lack of conformity that determines whether a statement is scientific or not. The editorial claims that "there are many disciplines at work in the world of alternative medicine". What rules are there in the world of alternative medicine?

The most irrational part of your editorial is contained in its last sentence which reads: "However, even the Hippocratic Oath recognised that, in certain callings, spiritual quality is as basic as skill." The reference to the Hippocratic Oath puts the context of "certain callings" as medical, and presumably the words "as basic as" means equally important. The writer then might find a surgeon with great spiritual gifts but little in the way of surgical skill appropriate for him when it came to operative surgery.

On the other hand, perhaps the ending of your editorial is just a flourish - a piece of hyperbole not intended to be taken seriously - which raises the question whether the rest of the judgments expressed should be taken seriously?

Yours truly,
R. G. WILLIAMS,
The New Hall,
Hedon,
North Humberside,
August 10.

From Dr J. P. Taverner

Sir, Your leading article today, together with the week's series on holistic medicine gives rise to the erroneous impression that many doctors, especially GPs, have been "psyched" by their peers into over-prescribing and treating all patients' ailments with medications.

The "a pill for every ill" ethic was a post-war product of the politicians' welfare state combined with pressure from the pharmaceutical industry. This political, commercial and social influence has had an insidious effect on our patients. They now expect and sometimes demand treatment for their illness today, and not tomorrow.

Many doctors believe and have always believed in the holistic theory as applied to health, yet it requires time and effort on the part of the patient to put this into practice. Many prefer to have quick palliation with a pill rather than a slower yet rewarding cure through their own inner resources.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TAVERNER,
1500 Warwick Road,
Knowle,
Salford, Greater Manchester,
West Midlands,
August 10.

The treasure-seekers

From Major J. D. Sainsbury

Sir, What are the bounds of treasure seeking? This trust, running on a shoestring to preserve the near-200 year history of a county territorial unit, is beset with a new menace, every bit as threatening as the metal detector.

He is the media speculator who, spurred by the "investment value" of medals, reads the obituary columns of local newspapers for evidence of war or other Service and includes upon next of kin to make offers for the deceased's medals.

The tasteless intrusion has to our knowledge been compounded either by the statement that "the regimental museum would not be interested" in a certain group of medals or, worse, by the speculator purporting to be acting on behalf of the regimental museum.

Heritage does not only encompass "buried" archaeology and the full extent of its rape should be realised by anyone trying to protect it. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
J. D. SAINSBURY,
Hertfordshire Yeomanry and Artillery Historical Trust,
8 Mornington,
Digswell,
Welwyn,
Hertfordshire,
August 2.

Without honour

From Mr R. J. Lane Fox

Sir, Mr M. B. Lacey (August 8) fears an earthquake in Winchester Cathedral because there were only five candidates from New College in Oxford's class list for Greats this year, none of them a Wykehamist, two of them women, while neither a Wykehamist nor a New College candidate was among the firsts.

As one of the New College candidates' tutors, I must reassure the residents in Winchester. Mr Lacey has miscounted. The six New College candidates are first-rate people, a more valuable category than first-class examinees. Two other candidates took degrees in classical subjects, one of whom is male, the other female. Both are first-rate and first-class.

Mr Lacey's expectations of Winchester College are not mine. His view of women is his own misfortune. Yours truly,
R. J. LANE FOX,
New College,
Oxford.

Relatively speaking

From Bishop E. L. Evans

Sir, No doubt our American friends would agree with Mr Bristow's letter (August 8).

Their usual opening gambit is "Who is this, please?", to which I have always thought that the correct reply is: "I don't know; perhaps you will tell me."

Yours faithfully,
E. L. EVANS,
Bunglow 1,
Terry's Cross,
Brighton Road,
Henfield,
West Sussex.

Investment and Finance

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 722.1
FT 100 458.53
Bargains 20,028
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 100.82
New York: Dow Jones
Average 1,182.83
Tokyo: Nikkei Exchange
Index 8,520.72
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Index 1,037.46
Amsterdam: 150.1
Sydney: AO Index 661.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index 844.40
Brussels: General Index
130.01
Paris: CAC Index 131.2
Zurich: SCA General 294.0
(Friday's close)

CURRENCIES

LONDON
Index 85.1
DM 4.0375
FF 12.1400
Yen 366.25
Dollar
Index 130.4
DM 2.7220

NEW YORK
Sterling \$1.4902
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 0.563547
SDR 0.703928
(Friday's close)

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Albright and Wilson, ASEA AB, Ayrshire Metal Products, British Dredging, International Investment Co. of Jersey, Scottish Eastern Investment, Thomas Nationwide Transport (third quarter), Transport Development.
Finals: Howard Shuttling, Impale, Pictet, Vibromat.
TUESDAY - Interim: Adams and Gibson, Anglo-International Investment, Metal Bulletin, Royal Insurance, Unilever (second quarter).
Finals: Cowan, De Groot, Group Investors, Heilmann Holdings, Metal Trade Suppliers, Restmor Group.
WEDNESDAY - Interim: T. Clarke, Gaskell Broadloom, Glanfield Lawrences, Horizon Travel, Pictet.
Finals: M.L. Holdings, Scottish, English and European Textiles, Victor Properties.
THURSDAY - Interim: Anglo American Industrial Corp., Cornhill & Smith, Johnson Group Cleaners, Philips Lamps (second quarter), Squirrel Horn, Stenhouse Holdings, Westminster Property (amended).
Finals: Copson, EID-Perry (India) (18-month figures), A & J Geffer, McKay Securities Group, Louis Newmark.
FRIDAY - Interim: Charles Baynes, Benford Concrete Machinery, GT Asia (Sterling) Fund (quarterly).
Finals: W.G. Allen & Sons (Tipton), Mining Supplies, Pico, Press Tolls, Waring & Gillow, and Wholesale Fittings.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Today - Group Lotus Car Companies, Lotus Cars, Hethel, Norwich (12.15), Steinberg Group, Steinberg House, Killy Farm, Milton Keynes (11.00).
Tomorrow - Evans of Leeds, Queens Hotel, City Square, Leeds (noon); Intasur, Laisine Group, Howard Hotel, Temple Place, WC2 (11.30).
Wednesday - Belgin Group of Companies, Bypass Road, Barking, Essex (3.00); Charles Hill, Park Hill Hotel, Goldhorn Park, Wolverhampton (noon); Mountview Estates, Regent Palace Hotel, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (noon); Unilock Holdings, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, EC2 (3.00).
Thursday - A. Cohen & Co., 8 Waterloo Place, St James's, SW1 (noon); Greene, King & Sons, The Barn, Haulbury Park, Haulbury, W. Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (noon); Philips Patents (Holdings), Grand Hotel, Aytoun Street, Manchester (noon); Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, King James Theatre Hotel, St James Centre, Edinburgh (noon).
Friday - Ariel Industries, Allen House, Newark Street, Leicester (4.00); Chamberlain Phipps, The Manor House, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire (2.30); May & Hassell, Grand Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol (noon).

● Rate rise forecast: Interest rates will have to rise in order to reduce the growth in money supply, according to a forecast published today by the Charterhouse Investment and Banking Group. But the higher rates will keep the pound overvalued, restrict industrial recovery and mean a continued rise in unemployment, it adds.
● Beazer contracts: C. H. Beazer (Holdings) has secured two contracts for its security and defence subsidiary, one worth £850,000 to supply bullet-proof doors and fittings for a Hongkong bank and the other to equip an Italian warship with a glass fibre bow dome.
● Hongkong growth: Hongkong's gross domestic product growth is likely to exceed the government's February estimate of 4 per cent in calendar 1983, according to the Colony's Financial Secretary, Mr John Brembridge.

Savings bank chief overcomes opposition in regions

TSB unveils merger plan paving way for £400m public flotation

By Our Financial Staff

Plans for the £400m public flotation of the Trustee Savings Bank, will be significantly advanced on Thursday when the TSB's 10 regional banks in England and Wales unveil plans to merge into one nationwide banking unit.

The move will follow closely on the merger in May of the four Scottish TSBs to create one unified bank.

The TSB reorganization is now progressing rapidly, and it is hoped to offer shares in a new holding company by the spring of 1985 at the latest.

This holding company would have six operating subsidiaries: the newly-formed bank in England and Wales, the Scottish

TSB, a TSB for Northern Ireland, a Channel Islands bank, United Dominions Trust, the hire-purchase division, and an insurance company.

This week's merger takes place under existing legislation, but it is seen as a significant breakthrough by the TSB chairman, Sir John Read, who was brought in to mastermind the sale of the bank.

The planned flotation aroused considerable opposition among the more traditional banks in the movement, many of which felt that they should stick to their traditional role.

The Read plan, in contrast, envisages the creation of a



Read: Significant breakthrough towards masterminding sale nationwide unit which will rival Barclays, Midland, National Westminster and Lloyds in the high streets and also possibly in

the international banking field, an area where the TSBs have no business. The TSB is, however, substantially smaller than the big four clearing banks in terms of assets.

The reorganization of the domestic banking side was foreshadowed before the flotation plan became a live issue, yet entails a significant lessening of the autonomy of the local TSBs. It also represents an acceptance that flotation is now inevitable and that the group should be restructured accordingly.

The combined group has reserves of approximately £400m and could command a stock market value which matches this. But because no one knows who owns the

individual banks - they are thought to be owned ultimately by the depositors - the £400m raised by the float may well be retained by the bank and used to finance new ventures.

There is concern, however, that a capital windfall of this nature may lead the TSB into areas where it has no experience.

The capital will also help the TSB finance expensive developments in banking, such as the computerized point-of-sale system where a terminal in a department store deducts the amount of a purchase directly from the customer's bank account. And it will allow it to finance the further rationalization of its branch banking network.

Commonwealth call for trade reforms

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Commonwealth finance ministers will discuss a new report calling for important reforms of the international financial and trading system at their annual meeting in Trinidad next month.

The report is the work of a nine-member task force set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat after last year's meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers in London. At the meeting, Mr Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand premier, pushed the idea of an international monetary conference along the lines of the Bretton Woods meeting of 1944.

His proposals have since received backing from other ministers, including President Francois Mitterrand of France.

The new report is likely to set the tone of debate on reforms to the system at the International Monetary Fund World Bank conference which immediately follows the finance ministers' meeting.

The new plan calls for greater economic cooperation and

emphasizes links between finance and trade throughout the world.

It suggests that a small group of representative countries and international bodies should be set up to prepare for a new conference on world trade and finance.

Third World countries have long urged industrialized nations to set up a forum in which to discuss problems in the global trading and financial system but calls for a new Bretton Woods conference have in the past met a lukewarm response from the United States and other western countries.

The task force which prepared the report was led by Professor Gerry Heileiner of Toronto University, and included Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, and Dr I G Patel, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

Senior Commonwealth bankers and economists assembled in London last month to put finishing touches on the report.

Tilling Man tipped as Rank chief

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

Sir Patrick Meany, the former chairman of Thomas Tilling which was taken over this year by BTR, is tipped as the next chairman of Rank Organisation.

Last month, Mr Michael Gifford, financial director of Cadbury Schweppes, was appointed Rank's chief executive and it was known that the group was looking for a new chairman.

Sir Patrick who is 58, has spearheaded Rank's search for a new chief executive with his fellow Rank non-executive directors.

Yesterday, Mr Russell Evans, Rank's chairman, said that he had no comment to make as he had been on holiday.

"I understand that Sir Patrick Meany is also away at the moment", he added.

Sir Patrick's experience of running a conglomerate would fit in well at Rank with its diverse interests. He is also on the boards of Cable and Wireless, ICI, and Midland Bank.



Meany: his experience would fit at Rank

Hull contract crucial to System X future

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The designers of the British electronic digital exchange, System X, are fighting to secure a crucial contract worth about £20m over 10 years in an attempt to prove to the telecommunications world that the technology is commercially viable.

They will face stiff competition for the contract, which will be awarded within the next two months by Hull City Council, the only operator of a public telephone system in Britain apart from British Telecom.

The contract is a prestigious one and vital to System X, because the exchange has yet to demonstrate that it can compete effectively in the open market against international competition.

More than £150m has been spent on System X's development. Some estimates put the figure at £300m. But although its designers claim a technical superiority for it, the exchange has been embarrassingly slow in establishing a foothold in overseas markets.

Recent attempts by designers

City Editor's Comment

UBM board has option on honour

The announcement that directors of UBM, the builders' merchant, ratified a share option scheme at a board meeting five days before a much-rumoured bid for the group emerged, has raised a number of eyebrows.

These directors are now sitting on a paper profit of £389,000.

The share option scheme was drawn up in May, presented to shareholders in June, then approved at the annual meeting on July 7.

In line with the normal procedures, the allocations of options on 961,000 shares were decided at the next board meeting after the annual meeting on July 29 and the option price was set in line with the then market price of 81p. The four directors involved accepted the option offer in the next few days and the scheme was ratified on August 5.

It was five days later that Norcross unveiled its 109p-a-share takeover bid and stock market speculation pushed UBM shares sharply higher on hopes of a counter-bid. They now stand at 121.5p.

However, the unfortunate aspect to this affair is that the stock market already appeared to have a good idea a bid was on the way.

Speculation in the market

On August 4, for instance, the day before the UBM board allocated the options, *The Times* reported: "Talk of a bid of 110p a share sent shares of builders' merchant UBM group racing away 6p to equal the year's high of 95p yesterday." The previous day UBM shares had risen 5p.

The Times report suggested Pilkington might be the predator but the question nevertheless arises whether in these circumstances UBM directors should have gone ahead with the share option scheme.

This is not to suggest that the UBM directors

had foreknowledge of a bid or indeed knew anything that other shareholders did not. Mr Roger Pinnington, UBM chief executive, denies any knowledge of the Norcross bid until the day it appeared and Norcross has confirmed this.

Of the speculation in the market, Mr Pinnington points out that there have been takeover rumours before. Attempts to discover whether something was afoot this time yielded no evidence of unusual share buying.

Firmly against Norcross bid

In short, there is no reason to suppose that directors had any prior knowledge of a bid.

But the point at issue is a rather different one. It is that share option schemes are meant to be offered as an incentive to management and the purpose of this one was to promote the "future prosperity" of the company by enabling executives involved to identify their interests with those of the shareholders.

Should the Norcross bid succeed, it would be very hard to see how this had been achieved. Given the unfortunate timing of events, it would look more as though directors were receiving compensation of a sort and this was not the reason why shareholders approved the scheme in the first place, nor was that why the scheme was proposed.

Without a bid the options are not exercisable for three years and the UBM directors would prefer it stayed that way. They have come out firmly against the Norcross bid and without a bid the controversy would go away.

In the circumstances, however, the UBM directors would be best advised to waive their rights to the options until the bid battle is over. At the least shareholders should be given another chance to vote on the scheme given the changed circumstances.

Bad debts threat 'ignored'

By Our Financial Staff

Banks specializing in Latin America remain by far the most profitable of the consortium banks, according to a survey by IBCA Banking Analysis.

However, IBCA questions whether these banks have made sufficient provision for bad debts. It accuses the accountancy profession of having faced this tricky problem by "reluctantly ignoring it".

European Bank and Libra Bank emerge as the most profitable of the 44 consortia

compared, with pretax return on assets of 3.2 per cent and 2.78 per cent respectively last year. The return compares with an average of 0.98 per cent for a sample of 26 similar wholesale banks specializing in Eurocurrency lending.

Both European Bank and Libra reported large profit rises last year. Two other consortia specializing in Latin America did less well but still compare favourably.

'Wings' bond warrant launched

By Michael Prest

"Wings" - warrants in negotiable government securities - took off in the Eurobond market last week. These are another ingenious attempt to separate investors from their money by offering warrants convertible into United States Treasury bonds.

The warrants are issued by investment banks and securities houses and are negotiable instruments in bearer form, thus preserving the Eurobond market's traditional anonymity.

After a year the warrants lapse and are worthless, but at any stage in their brief life they are exercisable into specified US Treasury bonds. No coupon is attached to the warrants.

If the price of the related bond rises, the price of the warrant should go up as well and, in theory, the happy investor makes a profit. Since the warrants are issued at a fraction of the price of the

associated security, and without the time and expense of buying US Treasury bonds, they appear to offer a highly attractive and geared way into the Treasury bond market.

But there are reservations. The first is that the investor is taking a view on bond prices, which today effectively means on how the market reads the intentions of the Federal Reserve and the course of interest rates.

Secondly, there is the little matter of the price at which the warrants are exercisable into the bonds. Salomon Brothers, one of the most prestigious names in the market, issued 500,000 warrants last week, half of which are exercisable into US Treasury 10½ per cent 2012 (known in the market as the "old long bond"). The price of the warrant is \$32.50 for each \$1,000 nominal, or 3.25 per cent.

That sounds enticing. But Salomon has given notice that the exercise price will be fixed at five points over the price of the bonds tomorrow. If that price is the same as the 87 on Friday, for the sake of argument, for the old long bond, the premium works out at 9.5 per cent. To show a profit, the investor must assume that yields will fall from more than 12 per cent to less than 11 per cent.

Plenty of people in the Eurobond market have doubts about whether prices will rise by that much. They point out, moreover, that making a market in the warrants could be difficult, partly because of their novelty, and partly because of uncertainty about their value after several months.

But in fairly dull market which has been overshadowed for most of the year by American interest rates, others confess to being more sanguine.

Car component firms in danger, survey says

Sector's horrific decline

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The performance of Britain's motor-vehicle component industry has been "horrific" and has mirrored, if not led, the country's industrial decline, according to a hard-hitting report on the sector published today.

The Inter-Company Comparisons survey shows that the industry, usually regarded as the one bright spot in the depressed motor industry, "actually lost money" on over £2,000m of sales in 1981-82.

The report, published in the midst of the controversial bid for AE by GKN, covers the performance of 100 companies over the three years up to April last year and concludes that almost half made losses in the latest year.

"In fact, the losses run up by some companies in the past two years must raise questions as to their survival."

The industry has cut its labour force in recent years by as much as 40 per cent and has instituted widespread factory closures. The ICC report shows that 42 companies shed 30,000 jobs in the three years, a drop of 18 per cent, to a total labour force of 143,800.

Much of the industry's problems stem from the huge increase in imported vehicles, a

factor which ICC says has been beyond the control of the parts makers.

It adds: "It is far too easy to say that a reduction of capacity earlier, or diversification into other markets and products, should have taken place sooner, but the truth of the matter is many companies did this and yet they still made losses."

"The industry has reduced in size through cutting out spare capacity and labour, both direct and indirect, but if the demand is not forthcoming then many companies may not be able to survive for very much longer."

Of the industry's top nine members - those with sales of more than £100m - five failed to show any growth in sales during the three years while only two, AE and Smiths Industries, achieved respectable rises of 10 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

Four companies made losses in the latest of the three years - Lucas, Chloride, Automotive Products and Quinton Hazell. Only one, Smiths, made "what could be considered reasonable margins."

ICC says that Smiths has kept profits hovering around the £25m-£30m mark in recent years "through a combination of good management and

diversifying into other industries."

Meanwhile, another motor industry report published today describes Europe as a "prime example" of an area where resistance to Japanese car imports is "disorganised and full of holes."

The report, from Automotive Industry Data, says the fact that members of the European Community have different industrial policies was instrumental in damaging the vehicle industry.

Most European countries imposed restrictions on the Japanese but the Japanese responded by expanding their European share through fringes markets such as Scandinavia and the Low Countries.

"The net result is that European vehicle manufacturers, blind to the dangers, are losing valuable market share in what are to them traditional export markets."

Motor Component & Accessory Manufacturers, ICC, Business Ratios, 28-42, Baines Street, London, EC1Y 8QE, £121.

Japanese Motor Vehicle Exports Strategies and Initiatives, Automotive Industry Data, 34 St John Street, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 6PB, £25.

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STC

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Name _____

Position held _____

Company _____

Address _____

Send to David Evans, STC Business Systems, Maidstone Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5HT.

STC Business Systems.
—THE INTELLIGENT CHOICE—

This document contains particular information in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of the Stock Exchange for the purpose of giving information with regard to Bespak plc ("the Company" or "Bespak"). The Directors have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no other material facts the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein whether of fact or opinion. All the Directors accept responsibility accordingly.

The Council of the Stock Exchange has granted the application for the Ordinary shares of the Company to be admitted to the Official List.

Bespak plc

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Act 1929 - No. 406711)

Introduction by Hambros Bank Limited

Share Capital		Issued and fully paid	
Authorised	No. of shares	£	No. of shares
£ 1,500,000	15,000,000	1,070,050	10,700,500
Ordinary shares of 10p each			

Indebtedness

At the close of business on 29th July, 1983 the Company and its subsidiaries ("the Group") had outstanding secured term loans of £1,291,670 and hire purchase and lease commitments of £303,881. Save as aforesaid and apart from intra-group liabilities, no company in the Group had at the close of business on that date any loan capital (including term loans) outstanding or created but unissued or any outstanding mortgages, charges, debentures or other borrowings, or indebtedness in the nature of borrowing, including bank overdrafts, liabilities under acceptances (other than normal trade bills) or acceptance credits, hire purchase commitments or any guarantees or other material contingent liabilities.

Directors	
Roy Edward Dexter M.C. (Chairman)	
Andrew Anthony Schumann (Managing Director)	
Graham Ernest Henry Begley F.R.C.S.	
Patrick Joseph Dunne M.Inst.M.	
Leslie James Kings	
Laurie Albert Saunders C. Eng., M.I. Mech.E., M.I. Prod.E.	
Michael Alec Schumann C. Eng., M.I.C.E.	
William Edward Warren C. Eng., M.I. Mech.E.	
Bergen Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2JJ.	
Secretary	
David Terence Kerbey	
Bespak plc, Bergen Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2JJ.	

Registered office	
Chile House,	
20 Ropemaker Street,	
London EC2Y 9BA.	
Joint auditors and reporting accountants	
Ernst & Whinney,	Hogg Bullimore & Co.,
Chartered Accountants,	Chartered Accountants,
Becket House,	Chile House,
1 Lambeth Palace Road,	20 Ropemaker Street,
London SE1 7EU.	London EC2Y 9BA.
Principal bankers	
Barclays Bank PLC,	
78 Turners Hill,	
Cheshunt, Waltham Cross,	
Hertfordshire EN8 9EW.	

Financial advisers	
Hambros Bank Limited,	
41 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA.	
Registrars and transfer office	
Barclays Bank PLC,	
Radcliffe Hall,	
Knuttsford, Cheshire WA16 9EU.	
Solicitors	
Norton, Rose, Bottrell & Roche,	
Kempson House,	
Camomile Street,	
London EC3A 7AN.	
Stockbrokers	
de Zosta & Bevan,	
25 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7EE	
and The Stock Exchange.	

Historical background

The Company was founded by Mr. Alec Schumann, the father of two of the present Directors, and until very recently a majority of the share capital has always remained in the ownership of the Schumann family, 6.5 per cent. of the Company's issued share capital is presently owned by Directors other than the Schumanns and approximately 4.7 per cent. by a company associated with Hambros Bank Limited ("Hambros"), which subscribed for shares in 1971 following its participation in 1967 in the financing of an early stage of Bespak's expansion. In 1958, operating under Glaxo, the Group began the assembly and sale in the United Kingdom and certain other territories of the Flexon Manufacturing Company's ("Flexon") range of aerosol valves, consisting of continuous spray valves for use in aerosols containing perfumes and colognes and metering valves delivering a measured spray for each depression of the actuator. While valves of the latter type were also used in perfume and cologne aerosols, their more important application proved to be in the pharmaceutical field: in the early 1960s Bespak began to replace components purchased from Flexon with United Kingdom manufactured components for reasons of cost and speed of delivery. Bespak also began improving upon the designs covered by the license, producing innovations based on those designs and originating specialised valves of its own design. Bespak is one of the world's major manufacturers of specialised aerosol valves. The license and all associated agreements with Flexon were terminated in 1976.

The Company grew substantially during the late 1960s and early 1970s due in particular to the increase in sales of two products incorporating Bespak's valves. The first was the aerosol cologne spray pioneered in the United Kingdom by one of Bespak's customers, Yardley Manufacturing Limited, and the second was a pharmaceutical product for the relief of asthma, the bronchodilator Ventolin (a registered trade mark of the Glaxo group "Glaxo"). Ventolin was first marketed in an aerosol form with a valve manufactured by Bespak in 1969 by Allen & Hanbury Limited, a subsidiary of Glaxo Holdings PLC. By 1975 sales of Glaxo of the special metering valve for use with this product were equalling sales of perfume and cologne valves and since then sales of this valve have always exceeded those of any other Bespak product despite the fact that the Company has remained the market leader in the United Kingdom for the supply of valves for aerosol spray perfumes and colognes.

In November, 1982 2,750,000 shares were placed by Hambros and permission was granted for dealings to take place in the Company's issued shares in the United Securities Market.

The business

Bespak's principal business consists of the manufacture and sale of several different ranges of specialised aerosol valves. Of these, pharmaceutical metering valves, which are manufactured both in a standard range and in a special version for Glaxo, accounted for approximately 70 per cent. of Bespak's sales in the financial year ended 29th April, 1983, most of which were to Glaxo. This range of valves is designed to deliver an accurately measured and repeatable dose in a spray fine enough to reach the lungs, and is principally used in inhalation therapy. Bespak is aware of only two significant competitors in this market.

Another important product line is a range of valves for use with perfumes and colognes. Although sales of these valves accounted for just under 16 per cent. of Bespak's total sales in the financial year ended 29th April, 1983, they represent well over half the United Kingdom market for such products. Bespak supplies these valves to most of the major cosmetic houses in the United Kingdom including L'Oréal, Yardley, L'Oréal and Parfums.

In addition to its two main product lines Bespak manufactures and sells several other types of valves. It supplies the majority of United Kingdom manufacturers of aerosol fire extinguishers with a unique range of very high pressure rate valves, together with handles, which for their part are capable of meeting the relevant requirements of the new British Standard for aerosol fire extinguishers. Although this product line only accounted for around 6 per cent. of sales in the financial year ended 29th April, 1983, the Company is increasing production capacity in anticipation of substantial sales growth in this market.

Bespak also manufactures special valves for specific applications, including valves for butane lighter refills (for customers such as Ronson and Dunhill) and lock deicers, valves for use with powders, thick creams, mastics and polyurethane foams and a medical catheter valve, all of which together accounted for the remainder of sales in the financial year ended 29th April, 1983.

The geographical analysis of turnover is as follows:

	Financial year ended 29th April	1982	1983
	£000	£000	£000
United Kingdom	5,000	6,821	6,844
USA	372	364	391
Europe	351	340	491
Rest of the world	5,886	8,886	8,886

Although approximately 80 per cent. of sales in the Company's financial year ended 29th April, 1983 were to United Kingdom customers, the Directors are aware that a substantial proportion of valves sold in the United Kingdom are incorporated in products which are ultimately exported.

The Group

The Group comprises Bespak, which is the holding company and principal manufacturing company, Bespak Engineering Co. Limited ("Bespak"), which operates the plastic injection moulding department, and B.E.S. Technology Limited ("B.E.S.T."), which is responsible for the design and development of much of the specialised machinery used by Bespak and Bespak.

Bespak produces over 100 million finished products per annum, using increasingly automated methods to assemble bought-in springs, gaskets and metal pressings with components injection-moulded by Bespak in engineering plastics. Thirty-five injection-moulding machines, run on a continuous basis, currently produce over 300 million of these small high precision moulded components in a year under strict quality control. Mould tools are made to extremely fine tolerances, usually in the Company's own toolroom. The Company is also a leader in its field in the use of computerised techniques. Administration and production controls are based on an extensively developed IBM installation. CAD/CAM system, backed up by Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machine tools, principally in order to accelerate detail design of the product, tool design and the tool manufacturing processes, thus enabling the Company to respond more quickly to customers' requirements. The Directors believe that one of Bespak's strengths is its highly developed engineering expertise which has resulted in the Company acquiring a reputation for high quality and reliability.

Although the Company relies upon a small number of suppliers for certain bought-in components and materials a policy of seeking alternative sources for critical components is actively pursued. However, the testing of alternative materials or components for use in pharmaceutical applications is invariably protected, in order to ensure its trading relationship with a major supplier the Company has recently acquired an approximate 27 per cent. shareholding in R. C. Bull Rubber Co. Limited.

The Company's marketing approach is based on a five year plan designed to achieve profit growth and reduce dependence on any one customer. Bespak's position as a supplier to specialist market segments means that close personal contact can be maintained with customers by a small professional sales staff backed up by a technical support service. Three sales executives are responsible for the United Kingdom and a fourth for visiting overseas customers, particularly in Europe. Many overseas territories used to be covered by agency agreements but the Company has recently taken over direct responsibility for a number of these, including the French market on which it will be particularly concentrating. Selling agencies still exist in parts of Eastern Europe and the Far East and in Canada, South America, Japan and South Africa. The Company has a representative and sells a similar product there, under the name Proventil. Bespak has agreed with Glaxo not to sell the Ventolin valve other than to Glaxo but with Glaxo's consent is now supplying Schering with this valve for use with Proventil and other products. The extension of the market for the Ventolin valve should result in a substantial increase in Bespak's sales.

The Ventolin valve

Bespak's range of pharmaceutical valves includes a special form of metering valve for use with Ventolin and in the financial year ended 29th April, 1983 sales of these valves to Glaxo accounted for approximately 80 per cent. of Bespak's sales. While Glaxo purchases aerosol valves from other manufacturers for use with other products, Bespak is Glaxo's sole supplier of valves for Ventolin.

Following the approval of Ventolin by the United States Food and Drug Administration (a form of such approval being the incorporation in the product of the Bespak valve), Glaxo commenced selling Ventolin in the United States in 1981. By agreement with Glaxo, Schering-Plough Corporation ("Schering") also manufactures and sells a similar product there, under the name Proventil. Bespak has agreed with Glaxo not to sell the Ventolin valve other than to Glaxo but with Glaxo's consent is now supplying Schering with this valve for use with Proventil and other products. The extension of the market for the Ventolin valve should result in a substantial increase in Bespak's sales.

There is no agreement between Glaxo or Schering and Bespak requiring either Glaxo or Schering to purchase valves from Bespak but the Directors consider it unlikely that any other suitable valve could be made available to Glaxo or Schering by another manufacturer for at least several years. Although the patents covering the design of the special valve used with Ventolin have expired, there are certain special features and elements of technical expertise involved in the valve's manufacture which, the Directors consider, would make it an extremely difficult product to copy. In addition, the special valve is the only one which has been officially approved both in the United Kingdom and in the United States, as well as widely throughout the rest of the world, for dispensing Ventolin and any alternative valve produced would be required to undergo a long period of testing and approval by manufacturers and regulatory authorities before it could be substituted for the Bespak valve.

Future developments

As mentioned above, the potential market for Ventolin and Proventil in the United States is very large and even if those products obtain only a small share of the market, Bespak's sales of valves to Glaxo and Schering should increase substantially. The Directors also foresee growing United Kingdom and export sales to other pharmaceutical companies of Bespak's range of metering valves suitable for inhalation therapy products.

Another United States market which the Directors believe has substantial potential is that for aerosol fire extinguishers incorporating Bespak valves and handles. Approvals for these fire extinguishers are being sought from appropriate testing bodies and it is anticipated that the granting of these would result in a substantial increase in sales.

In furtherance of its expansion into the United States the Company has recently incorporated Bespak, Inc. as a wholly owned subsidiary and this company has acquired an option to purchase a site of approximately 28 acres in North Carolina on which it plans to construct a purpose built factory to house the Group's American operation so that it can more easily and efficiently service that market.

The Company is experiencing continuing growth in sales of perfume valves and related devices in Europe and is at an advanced stage in the development of lower cost metering valve systems for less demanding non-aerosol applications while continuing seeking areas into which it can diversify by making use of its existing precision moulding technology and marketing and engineering expertise. The Company's substantial research and development effort will continue to be used to explore possibilities for increasing sales by meeting requests from customers for special products or for variations on existing products but these are only manufactured in cases where the return to the Company is expected to be adequate.

Premises

The Company owns the freehold of a site of approximately 7.7 acres on the North Lynn Industrial Estate, King's Lynn, Norfolk, on which it has three buildings. The Company moved into two factory buildings on this site in 1975, one of which was a 20,000 square foot rented building on a site of approximately 3.3 acres and the other of which was a 25,000 square foot building constructed for the Company on an adjoining site of approximately 4.4 acres. The freehold of the latter building had previously been bought by Bespak. The freehold of the rented property was acquired in 1979 and in 1980 the Company moved into an additional building of 45,000 square feet erected for it to a design incorporating various innovations which have produced a more pleasant and efficient working environment leading to a greater integration of production and administrative functions. The latest building houses assembly operations, quality control, maintenance, store stores and despatch and most of the management and office staff. The 25,000 square foot building houses the injection-moulding and tool making departments and the 20,000 square foot building accommodates the research and development department.

The Directors consider that this site is capable of carrying at least a further 40,000 square feet of buildings in satisfactory landscaped surroundings and have already put in hand site clearance preparatory to the erection of an extension to the factory.

Management and staff

Directors
Mr. R. E. Dexter, aged 63, is the non-executive Chairman of the Company and an Industrial Adviser to Hambros, having previously been Chief Executive of the Sinter Group. He joined Bespak as a Director in 1968, when Hambros first became involved in the Company, and was appointed Chairman in 1978.

Mr. A. A. Schumann, aged 44, joined the Company as Production Manager in 1969 after managerial experience with Ford Limited and I.T.T. Data Services. He was appointed to the Board in 1970 and has been Managing Director since 1976.

Mr. G. E. H. Begley, aged 44, joined the Company in 1968 as the Company's accountant. He was appointed Finance Director in 1974 and is responsible for all aspects of the Group's financial affairs and administration.

Mr. P. J. Dunne, aged 38, joined the Company in 1974 as a sales executive and was subsequently promoted to sales manager before being appointed Marketing Director in 1981.

Mr. L. J. Kings, aged 54, joined the Company in 1964 as the works foreman and was subsequently promoted to assembly manager, production manager and manufacturing manager before being appointed Manufacturing Director in 1981.

Mr. A. Saunders, aged 49, joined the Company in 1980 as Engineering Director following senior management experience with several companies including I.T.T. Cannon Electric and a subsidiary of Lockheed Corporation.

Mr. M. A. Schumann, aged 41, joined the Company in 1970 following managerial experience with Balfour Beatty Limited and Cementation Limited. He was appointed a Director in 1979 and is responsible for development of the Company's land and buildings and for long term planning.

Mr. W. E. Warren, aged 59, was Managing Director of the Company between 1963 and 1974 and is now a non-executive Director and part-time consultant to the Company.

Staff
The Company employs approximately 280 people, all of whom are based in King's Lynn. Of these approximately 140 are employed in production (including Bespak), 80 in engineering (including Bespak), 30 in finance and administration, 20 in research and development and 10 in sales and marketing.

The Board is supported by a strong management team and there is a well developed structure for consultation and decision making. All relations between management and employees are conducted through the Bespak Employees' Council and labour relations are excellent.

There are three fully funded retirement benefit schemes in operation for the weekly and monthly paid employees, all of which are non-contributory.

Dividends

It is the Company's intention to pay dividends twice yearly split as to approximately 40 per cent. in February as an interim dividend and as to the remaining 60 per cent. in October as a final dividend.

Appendix I - Accountants' Report

The following is a copy of the joint report of Ernst & Whinney and Hogg Bullimore & Co., Chartered Accountants, to the Directors of the Company:

Ernst & Whinney,
Becket House,
1 Lambeth Palace Road,
London SE1 7EU.

Hogg Bullimore & Co.,
Chile House,
20 Ropemaker Street,
London EC2Y 9BA.

29th August, 1983.

The Directors:
Bespak plc
The Directors:
Hambros Bank Limited
Gentlemen:
Introduction:
We have audited the audited accounts of Bespak plc ("Bespak") and of its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as "the Group") for the five financial years ended 29th April, 1983. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and have been audited by Hogg Bullimore & Co., Chartered Accountants for the four financial years ended 29th April, 1982 and jointly by Ernst & Whinney and Hogg Bullimore & Co. for the financial year ended 29th April, 1983.

The financial information set out below under the heading "Historical cost accounts" is derived from the audited accounts of the Group, after making such adjustments as we consider appropriate in our opinion. The information given, on the basis of the historical cost convention, is a true and fair view of the profits and source and application of funds of the Group for the five financial years ended 29th April, 1983 and of the state of affairs of Bespak and of the Group at 29th April, 1983.

We have also examined the abridged supplementary current cost accounts of the Group for the two financial years ended 29th April, 1983 which have been prepared under the current cost convention in accordance with Statement of Standard Accounting Practice number 15 ("SSAP 15"). The summarized financial information set out below under the heading "Current cost accounts" has been derived from the abridged supplementary current cost accounts. In our opinion these statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the policies and methods set out in the notes to give the information required by SSAP 15.

No audited accounts have been prepared for the Group for any period subsequent to 29th April, 1983.

Historical cost accounts

1. Accounting policies
The historical cost accounts have been drawn up under the following policies, which have been consistently applied in arriving at the financial information set out in this report:

(a) Accounting convention
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Basis of consolidation
The consolidated accounts incorporate the accounts of Bespak and its two wholly owned subsidiaries, Bespak Engineering Co. Limited ("Bespak") and B.E.S. Technology Limited ("B.E.S.T."). Bespak acquired a holding of 50 per cent. in Wainwright Engineering Limited ("Wainwright") in February, 1982. The Directors consider the investment to be in the nature of a trade investment and the results of Wainwright have been included on the grounds of immateriality.

(c) Turnover
Turnover comprises the invoice value of goods and services, excluding VAT and intra-group transactions.

(d) Depreciation
The cost of fixed assets, excluding motor vehicles, is written off in equal monthly instalments over their expected useful lives as follows:

Freehold buildings	— 50 years
Freehold building services	— 10 to 20 years
Tooling	— 3 years
Plant and equipment	— 5 to 7 years
Leases and patents	— 5 years
Motor vehicles	are revalued annually at their trade-in value.

(e) Plant under construction
The costs and attributable overheads of self-manufactured assets are capitalised as they are incurred. When the asset is completed the total cost of the asset is transferred to the appropriate asset category after writing off any costs in excess of the Directors' valuation of the asset.

(f) Hire purchase contracts and leasing agreements
Assets acquired under hire purchase contracts and financial leases are capitalised and depreciation is applied on the useful life of the asset. Finance charges are recognised on an accrual basis.

(g) Stocks and work in progress
Stocks and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises the direct cost of production and the attributable portion of all overheads appropriate to location and condition and is calculated using the first in first out method.

(h) Research and development
Expenditure on research and development is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

(i) Deferred taxation
Provision is made for taxation, using the liability method, on short-term timing differences and all other material timing differences which are not expected to continue in the foreseeable future.

(j) Contributions to pension funds
The Group makes contributions to various pension and life assurance plans. The contributions are made to a funded scheme, the assets of which are held by trustees and kept separate from those of the Group. Contributions are based on the most recent valuation of the fund which is prepared annually.

(k) Foreign currencies
Assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling on that date. Translation differences, and differences arising on the trading activities of the Group, have been dealt with in the profit and loss account.

(l) Investment grants
Investment grants on capital expenditure are treated as reducing the cost of the acquisition of the relevant asset by the amount of the grant.

2. Profit and loss accounts
The profit and loss accounts of the Group for each of the five financial years ended 29th April, 1983 were as follows:

	Financial year ended 29th April	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	4,146	4,558	4,418	5,855	6,898	6,998
Operating expenses	(3,420)	(3,350)	(3,851)	(4,997)	(5,727)	(5,727)
Net operating income	726	1,208	567	1,188	1,188	1,188
Net interest income	49	321	447	323	167	167
Profit before taxation	775	1,529	1,014	1,511	1,355	1,355
Taxation	(19)	(20)	(13)	(25)	(50)	(50)
Profit after taxation and before extraordinary charges	756	1,509	1,001	1,486	1,305	1,305
Extraordinary charges	(4)	—	29	—	84	84
Profit available for distribution	752	1,509	1,030	1,486	1,221	1,221
Dividends	(4)	—	29	—	59	210
Reserve profit	748	1,509	1,001	1,486	1,162	1,011
Earnings per share	6.3p	3.2p	0.7p	7.8p	15.7p	15.7p

Notes on the profit and loss accounts

(a) Operating expenses
Operating expenses are stated after charging:

	Financial year ended 29th April	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Depreciation	83	78	111	120	187	187
Commission to Directors for loss of office	—	32	—	23	—	—
Depreciation and loss on sale of fixed assets	267	356	435	489	541	541
Depreciation of leased assets	—	—	—	3	6	6
Hire of plant and equipment	31	15	22	12	9	9
Auditors' remuneration	9	10	16	12	23	23
Research and development	—	—	151	161	203	203

* Comparative figures for research and development costs are not available for the financial years ended 29th April, 1979 and 29th April, 1980.

(b) Net interest payable
Net interest payable represents:

	Financial year ended 29th April	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Long-term loan	—	144	280	283	198	198
Medium-term loan	—	18	7	3	—	—
Bank overdraft	11	115	94	10	5	5
Hire purchase and finance charges on leased assets	8	42	85	55	55	55
Others	—	2	—	3	—	—
Interest receivable	49	321	447	323	167	167
	49	321	447	323	167	167

(c) Taxation
The charge for taxation, based on profits for the financial years, comprises:

		Financial year ended					
		29th April 1979	2nd May 1980	1st May 1981	30th April 1982	29th April 1983	29th April 1984
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Corporation tax payable		—	—	—	—	—	118
Corporation tax recoverable		—	(62)	—	—	—	—
Advance corporation tax within oil as recoverable		19	—	13	25	(63)	(63)
		19	(20)	13	25	50	50

Bespak plc — continued

(iv) Extraordinary charges

The extraordinary charges in the financial year ended 31st May 1983 represent redundancy costs and in the financial year ended 29th April 1982 represent the cost of obtaining permission to deal in Bespak's Ordinary shares on the Unlisted Securities Market in November 1982.

(v) Dividends

Dividends paid by Bespak comprise—

	27th April 1979	2nd May 1980	1st May 1981	30th April 1982	29th April 1983
Amounts payable (£000)	43	—	28	59	210
Rate per share—on 420,020 Ordinary shares of £1 each	10.50	—	7p	14p	2p
Rate per share—on 10,500,500 Ordinary shares of 10p each	—	—	—	—	—
Dividends of £1.400 were waived in respect of the financial year ended 27th April 1979.	—	—	—	—	—

(vi) Movements on reserves

Movements on reserves during the period have been—

	27th April 1979	2nd May 1980	1st May 1981	30th April 1982	29th April 1983
Reserves at the beginning of the financial year	1,198	1,813	2,150	2,167	2,929
Retained profit	615	337	17	762	1,458
Capitalisation of reserves	—	—	—	—	(630)
	1,813	2,150	2,167	2,929	3,757

(vii) Earnings per share

Earnings per share have been calculated on the 10,500,500 Ordinary shares of 10p each in issue and on the profits after taxation and before extraordinary charges for each year.

3. Statements of source and application of funds

The source and application of funds of the Group for each of the five financial years ended 29th April 1983 were as follows—

	27th April 1979	2nd May 1980	1st May 1981	30th April 1982	29th April 1983
Source of funds					
Profit before taxation	677	317	88	846	1,802
Extraordinary charges	—	—	(129)	—	(84)
Acid depreciation	677	317	59	846	1,718
Add amount written off investment in related company	267	356	435	402	547
Funds from operations	1,944	673	494	1,398	2,290
Other sources	—	1,500	—	—	—
Bank loans	11	17	13	6	42
Sale of fixed assets	—	—	—	—	—
Total funds generated	955	2,180	507	1,344	2,332
Application of funds					
Dividends to shareholders	877	2,102	312	234	1,564
Dividends	—	—	—	—	—
Loan repayments	85	128	27	30	178
Tax paid	6	—	—	—	—
Investment in related company	—	—	—	—	—
	968	2,230	339	264	1,682
	(411)	(50)	168	1,080	408
Movement in working capital					
Stocks	899	287	(482)	283	56
Debitors	34	(123)	325	(291)	338
Creditors	(560)	(304)	170	(233)	(808)
Pre purchase and leasing creditors	(19)	(353)	85	(114)	—
	214	(85)	188	(13)	(413)
(Decrease)/increase in liquid funds	(411)	(50)	168	1,080	408

4. Balance sheets

The balance sheets of the Group and of Bespak at 29th April 1983 were as follows—

	Notes	The Group 1982	Bespak 1982	The Group 1983	Bespak 1983
Fixed assets	(i)	4,291	3,851	—	—
Patents and trade marks	(ii)	14	14	—	—
Investment in related company	(iii)	—	—	—	—
Leased assets	(iv)	12	12	—	—
		4,317	3,877	—	—
Intangible assets	(v)	—	—	—	—
Current assets		1,535	1,241	—	—
Stocks and work in progress	(vi)	1,498	1,241	—	—
Debtors		1,329	1,229	—	—
Cash and bank balances		4,332	4,008	—	—
Current liabilities		1,938	1,235	—	—
Creditors	(vii)	210	210	—	—
Proposed dividend	(viii)	342	342	—	—
Loan commitments due within one year	(ix)	2,486	2,487	—	—
Net current assets		1,872	1,581	—	—
Loan commitments	(x)	6,189	5,146	—	—
Taxation payable 1st January 1983		1,333	1,333	—	—
		4,807	5,764	—	—
Financed by:					
Share capital	(xi)	1,050	1,050	—	—
Distributable reserves		3,757	3,714	—	—
		4,807	4,764	—	—

Notes on the balance sheets

(i) Fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation, as follows—

	Cost or valuation	Accumulated depreciation	Net book amount
Freehold land and buildings	1,089	147	1,452
Plant and machinery	4,362	2,177	2,385
Motor vehicles	218	58	160
Plant under construction	294	—	294
	6,973	2,382	4,291

(ii) Bespak

	Cost or valuation	Accumulated depreciation	Net book amount
Freehold land and buildings	1,089	147	1,452
Plant and machinery	3,457	1,518	1,939
Motor vehicles	218	58	160
Plant under construction	100	—	100
	5,874	1,723	3,851

Plant under construction represents those assets being constructed within the Group Bespak's manufacturing component (Bespak) and Bespak's manufacturing component (Bespak), both of which are sold to Bespak. Any costs in excess of the Directors' valuation of the assets are written off.

(iii) Patents and trade marks

Patents and trade marks are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, as follows—

	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Net book amount
Patents	14	—	14
Trade marks	—	—	—
	14	—	14

(iv) Investment in related company

In February 1982 Bespak acquired a 50 per cent interest in the issued ordinary shares capital of Whirlight which is involved in developing a new rolling mill system and fibre cloth extrusion for use in rolling mill writing instruments. At 29th April 1983 full provision was made against the cost of this investment in view of the present immaturity of the Group of its sales.

(v) Leased assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, as follows—

	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Net book amount
Leased assets	12	—	12
	12	—	12

(vi) Intangible assets

Shares at cost

	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Net book amount
Shares at cost	—	—	—
Loans to subsidiaries	—	—	—
	—	—	—

The loans to subsidiaries are interest free with unspecified repayment terms but are regarded by Bespak as long term.

On 21st July 1983 Bespak, Inc. was incorporated in the United States as a wholly owned subsidiary with a paid-up share capital of US\$1,000.

(vii) Stocks and work in progress

	The Group	Bespak
Materials and stores	1,143	642
Work in progress	36	57
Finished goods	306	542
	1,535	1,241

(viii) Proposed dividend

The proposed dividend of 2p per share is payable on 6th October 1983.

(ix) Loan commitments

Bespak's loan commitments at 29th April 1983 were—

	Secured bank loan	Here purchase commitments	Total
Over one year	167	175	342
Over two years	167	126	293
Over three years	500	—	500
Over five years	1,334	340	1,674

The secured bank loan is repayable in equal quarterly instalments of £41,666 and is secured by a floating charge on all assets of Bespak. Interest is charged at 3 per cent over Barclays Bank base rate. Her purchase commitments are subject to variable interest rates linked to finance house base rate.

(x) Share capital

The authorised share capital of Bespak at 30th April 1982 was £1,000,000 divided into Ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 420,020 Ordinary shares were issued and fully paid.

On 22nd November 1982—

(a) the authorised share capital was increased to £1,500,000 and the Ordinary shares of £1 each were subdivided into Ordinary shares of 10p each; and

(b) the issued share capital was increased to £1,050,000 by the issue of 6,300,300 Ordinary shares of 10p each credited as fully paid by way of a capitalisation of reserves.

On 8th August 1983 200,000 shares of 10p each were issued fully paid as consideration for the acquisition of approximately 27 per cent of the issued share capital of R. C. Bull Rubber Co. Limited.

(xi) Deferred taxation

Potential taxation liabilities, which are not expected to crystallise in the future, exist in respect of—

	The Group	Bespak
Accumulated capital allowances	1,573	1,662
Short-term timing differences	(25)	(25)
Tax losses unutilised	(6)	(—)
	1,542	1,637

(ii) Capital commitments

The capital commitments of the Group and of Bespak at 29th April 1983 represented—

	The Group 1982	Bespak 1982
Capital expenditure that has been committed for but has not been provided for in the accounts	124	48
Capital expenditure that has been authorised by the Directors but has not yet been committed for	174	167

(iii) Director's loan

A loan of £1,200 was made to Mr. L. J. Kings on 28th December 1982. The amount outstanding at 29th April 1983 was £720.

Current cost accounts

1. General

The current cost accounts have been prepared in accordance with SSAP 16, and except as stated below, under the same accounting policies as those adopted for the historical cost accounts. Current cost accounts have not been prepared for any period prior to the financial year ended 30th April 1982. Comparative figures for the financial year ended 30th April 1982 are shown at their originally established values without further adjustments to take account of inflation.

(a) Current cost operating adjustments

The grouping method has been applied in calculating the cost of sales and monetary working capital adjustments, using published price indices.

(b) Depreciation adjustments

The additional depreciation is the difference between—

(a) depreciation calculated on the value of fixed assets in the consolidated current cost balance sheet, using the rates employed in the historical cost accounts; and

(b) depreciation charged in the historical cost accounts.

(c) Cost of sales

The cost of sales adjustment is the difference at the date of sale between the estimated replacement cost of goods sold and the actual cost of those goods.

(d) Monetary working capital

The monetary working capital adjustment estimates the extent of the benefit to the Group of finance provided by the excess of creditors over debtors, other than those creditors in respect of fixed assets.

(e) Gearing adjustment

The current cost operating profit is increased by the gearing adjustment to reflect the extent to which the Group is financed by net borrowings rather than by the shareholders.

2. Consolidated current cost profit and loss accounts

The profit and loss accounts of the Group for the two financial years ended 29th April 1982 and 29th April 1983 are as follows—

	Financial year ended 29th April 1982	29th April 1983
Profit before interest and taxation on historical cost basis	1,802	2,929
Current cost operating adjustment	(1,106)	1,398
	696	1,531
Bank interest receivable	9	91
Interest expense	(345)	(1,810)
Taxation	332	238
	612	1,592
Gearing adjustment	586	1,592
Profit before extraordinary charges	693	1,548
Extraordinary charges	(63)	(84)
Profit for the year	630	1,464
Dividend	85	210
Current cost retained profit	545	1,254
Current cost earnings per share	6.2p	14.7p

Notes to the consolidated current cost profit and loss accounts

(i) Current cost operating adjustments

Additional depreciation

	1982	1983
Depreciation	1,106	1,398
Cost of sales	172	177
Monetary working capital	71	7
	233	250

(ii) Current cost earnings per share has been calculated on the 10,500,500 Ordinary shares of 10p each in issue and on the current cost profit after taxation and before extraordinary charges for each year.

3. Consolidated current cost balance sheet of the Group

	At 30th April 1982	At 29th April 1983
Fixed assets	3,851	3,851
Intangible assets	14	14
Leased assets	12	12
Investments	—	—
	3,877	3,877
Current assets	1,581	1,581
Stocks	1,070	1,498
Debtors	1,229	1,229
Cash and bank	1,467	2,400
Creditors—amounts falling due within one year	1,581	1,581
Net current assets	1,581	1,581
Total assets less current liabilities	5,458	5,458
Creditors due after more than one year	1,510	1,392
Net assets	4,544	5,803
Capital and reserves		
Share capital	420	1,050
Reserves	4,124	4,753
Shareholders' funds	4,544	5,803

Notes to the consolidated current cost balance sheet

(i) Fixed assets

	Gross	Accumulated depreciation	Net book amount
Intangible assets	14	—	14
Leased assets	12	—	12
Investments	—	—	—
Shares in Whirlight at valuation	0.821	4,243	5,288

Gross fixed assets are stated at their value to the business as derived from the application of specific indices to the historical cost amounts with the exception of licences and patents which are shown at their original cost. The accumulated depreciation reflects the proportion of the gross amount that has been consumed to date.

(ii) Stocks and work in progress

Published indices have been used to estimate the net current replacement cost of stocks.

(iii) Reserves

	30th April 1982	29th April 1983
Current cost reserves	516	805
Valuation surplus	85	707
Properties	1,446	1,489
Plant and machinery including leased assets	(17)	(10)
Stock, including cost of sales adjustment	(89)	(111)
	1,263	1,286

Other reserves, as shown in the historical cost accounts

	30th April 1982	29th April 1983
Current cost surplus for the year	2,967	2,781
Capitalisation of reserves	84	(84)
	2,781	3,365
Total reserves	4,124	4,753

(iv) Current cost reserve movement

	Financial year ended 29th April 1982	29th April 1983
Opening reserves	1,096	1,383
Movements in the year	—	—
Properties	33	(25)
Plant and equipment including leased assets	(6)	(9)
Stocks	1,063	1,164
	1,096	1,383

(v) Financing of current cost net operating assets

	Financial year ended 29th April 1982	29th April 1983
Current cost adjustments	1,363	1,368
Gearing adjustment	(63)	(84)
	1,299	1,284

The following summarises the net operating assets on the current cost basis and the methods by which these assets were financed

	Financial year ended 29th April 1982	29th April 1983
Fixed assets	4,528	5,288
Stocks	1,498	1,498
Monetary working capital	1,467	2,400
Net operating assets	6,107	7,653
Financed by—		
Share capital	1,050	1,050
Reserves	1,507	1,675
Bank and cash balances	(516)	(805)
Other non-operational items	1,241	1,241
Net borrowings	1,241	1,241
Shareholders' funds	2,291	2,716

(vi) Proposed dividend

The proposed dividend of 2p per share is payable on 6th October 1983.

(vii) Loan commitments

Bespak's loan commitments at 29th April 1983 were—

	Secured bank loan	Here purchase commitments	Total
Over one year	167	175	342
Over two years	167	126	293
Over three years	500	—	500
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The secured bank loan is repayable in equal quarterly instalments of £41,666 and is secured by a floating charge on all assets of Bespak. Interest is charged at 3 per cent over Barclays Bank base rate. Her purchase commitments are subject to variable interest rates linked to finance house base rate.

(viii) Share capital

The authorised share capital of Bespak at 30th April 1982 was £1,000,000 divided into Ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 420,020 Ordinary shares were issued and fully paid.

On 22nd November 1982—

(a) the authorised share capital was increased to £1,500,000 and the Ordinary shares of £1 each were subdivided into Ordinary shares of 10p each; and

... ..

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted.)

1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 26

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from Waring and Gillow, the furniture and carpet retailer whose shares ride a roller coaster of takeover speculation. Last March the group said it had received an approach which might lead to a bid just days after reporting a half-year loss before tax of £777,000. The company has never said what became of the approach.

Jeremy Warner

Britain leaves the best till last in Helsinki

Supreme Cram, serene Miss Decker

From David Miller, Helsinki

Within the space of 25 minutes in the first world championships yesterday, two notable eras came to a close. Mary Decker, who runs from the front with a serene gracefulness comparable to Maria Bueno or Olga Korbut, inflicted the double over the middle-distance might of Eastern Europe, and then Steve Cram, the soft-spoken Georgian with aggression in his legs took the men's 1500 metres with perfect judgement of a pedestrian race, leaving Steve Ovett a sad fourth.

In addition, as he did Daley Thompson, the world title and year's Commonwealth and European, Cram has established himself as one of the supreme tactical competitors of his sport. He remarked afterwards that he does not care if he never holds the world so long as he keeps on winning, and it is an attitude which will enlist wide approval.

Yet it has to be said that the slow starting pace - similar to the Moscow event - would have suited that other fast finisher, the Olympic champion, Sebastian Coe, one of the many casualties prior to these championships. Britain is indeed fortunate to have such a runner as Cram to succeed the two men who dominated him for three years.

It remains to be seen whether Coe, who is a year younger than Ovett, can remount a challenge in next year's Olympics, at either 1,500 or 5,000 metres. There were many in the stadium yesterday who could not believe Ovett, the world record holder and Olympic 800 metres champion, who had seemingly returned to fitness with a really fast time this year, could fail to win a medal. Yet the view before the heats that Cram, Steve Scott, and Said Aouita were the form favourites and that Ovett's Indian summer was clouded by doubt had gained ground by the time the semi-finals were run and was emphatically confirmed in the final.

The men who took the four-lap medals were those who have the best credentials over two laps, and that is always likely in contemporary racing. Cram revealed afterwards that he had received prior information that Aouita, fastest man of the year, planned to make his effort from 100 metres before the bell, so he based his own council on that knowledge.

Cram also reckoned on Aouita holding the key to the last lap, after hearing similar evidence from Graham Williamson when beaten by the Moroccan in Paris.

So when Abascal (Spain), Zdravkovic (Yugoslavia), Kubista (Czechoslovakia), Ovett, Scott and Busse (East Germany) led the procession - a second slower than Mary Decker's first lap - Cram was

content to shadow Aouita at the back of the flock. Ovett looked comfortable, as indeed he should at such pace, with two laps to go, at which point Becker (West Germany) had pushed up with the leaders. It was on the fourth bend that Cram began to move out from sixth position, Aouita with him, and down the second last back straight they had closed in behind Kubista, Zdravkovic and Becker. Rounding the bend, Cram jumped to third, coming off the bend Aouita shot through inside and led at the bell from Cram, Scott and Abascal, with Ovett boxed in, eighth, behind Bolt (Kenya) and anxiously searching for a way through. There was none.

At no time in any of his major victories between 1977 and 1981 had Ovett ever been more than two or three yards off the leading pace; that he was so far off now suggested a physical rather than mental problem, though he would say later that he "just ran badly".

Into the last back straight, Aouita led Cram who briefly glanced behind at Scott, a yard or so down. On the final bend Ovett clashed with Kubista as he battled to get through but was all of 10 yards adrift as Cram surged into a two-yard lead over Aouita entering the final straight with Scott's strength now beginning to tell. Cram, 3min 41.59sec, was clear and not fading, but Aouita's brave bid, like Straub's in Moscow could not be sustained (3min 42.03sec) and the silver was Scott's by a yard or so (3min 41.87sec).

Cram said: "With 200 to go I sensed one was in direct contact behind so I made my effort. I expected them to come back at me, but they didn't. I hope it's not the end of an era - Steve Ovett was not at his best. Only eight weeks ago I had thought '83 would be a disaster for me'."

There had been a poignancy in Mary Decker winning the women's race while her estranged husband and coach, Ron Tabb, unaware of events back at the stadium was for a time leading the marathon before finishing eighteenth. She had won the 3,000 in a thrilling finish and now repeated the performance with equal panache. For the best part of three laps she led from Zaitseva (USSR), Doran (Italy) and Wendy Sly (Great Britain). With 300 metres to go, Zaitseva put in a burst, was held off, but then gained two yards round the last bend. Zaitseva's head was rolling and her elbows going wide as Miss Decker came back at her in lane two and thrust in front as the Russian literally fell across the line with two other Russians getting home in front of Sly.

So when Abascal (Spain), Zdravkovic (Yugoslavia), Kubista (Czechoslovakia), Ovett, Scott and Busse (East Germany) led the procession - a second slower than Mary Decker's first lap - Cram was



White is Bonnie but black is beautiful: Wells (centre) about to be outstripped by Smith

The man with all the talents

There is a passage in a recent book on Daley Thompson, called "The Subject is Winning", by Skip Rosen, in which the world's great all-round athlete says that he owes the public nothing - in the way of favours, autographs, valuable time, public comment - other than the best he can do the next time he competes. David Miller writes. The debt is beginning to mount heavily in his favour.

Though it is one of the unfortunate coincidences of the decade that it is never staged with any significance in Britain, it was a fact that Thompson was more appreciated by the British crowd here for what he is, a truly phenomenal competitor in championships, as Jürgen Hingsen, of West Germany, learnt to his cost for the second successive year.

Last year in Athens we had the unforgettable sight - captured for posterity by a British photographer, Steve Powell, in a picture which was absurdly judged only runners-up in an international award here - of Thompson, the European champion, standing on the track at the end of the final 1,500 metres event while all around him other great athletes lay devastated and prostrate.

On Saturday many of those same

men, including Hingsen and West, the Moscow and Los Angeles Olympic champions, were on their feet, relegated to the role of spectators and watching in a mood which embraced disappointment, admiration and fellowship as Thompson slowly ran his lap of honour, tossing his shoes into the crowd on the way.

Since qualifying as a youngster for the 1976 Olympics he has won the Commonwealth title twice, the Olympic, the European and the World title. He plans a long rest and then his usual winter in San Diego as preparation for retaining his Olympic title in Los Angeles, an achievement which is splendidly probable.

It is at pains in Rosen's book to explain how the decade must blend his effort over two days, mentally and physically, so that no single event is emphasized at the expense of another: the 10 disciplines must be completed as a unit.

This he did to perfection to deny Hingsen, who has recently regained the world record from his Welsh point-dipole policeman wearing goggles as the wind-shift to the Arctic north sent Finland's summer plunging from 33 degrees Centigrade to 19

degrees overnight there was not much prospect of a record here.

With an overnight lead over Hingsen, 400 metres short in Athens, Thompson was virtually assured of the gold if he could avoid trouble in the high hurdles, in which his groin injury would be vulnerable, and the pole vault.

Running marginally within his potential, he held Hingsen to a one-lap difference over the hurdles, then beat him in the pole vault and the 400 metres, and the 1,500 metres to go.

For two days the duel had held the best crowd on earth. I do not know how serious was the injury. If in part it was overexertion, and in the process the media were exploited to this end, then who are we to criticize him in an age when the media become more voracious by the day in laying bare privacy?

What I do know is that this son of a Nigerian father and a Scottish mother who sadly forfeited his football career because he did not believe in his athletic future - has in the arena of sport again done all his countrymen proud: so infinitely rewarding for the athletic council social administrator who became his surrogate mother.



Decker wins, Zaitseva falls: the ups and downs of a 1,500 metres final

Weekend results from Helsinki

Men
1,500 METRES: Final: 1. M. Cram (GB), 3:41.59; 2. S. Scott (GB), 3:41.87; 3. S. Aouita (MAR), 3:42.03; 4. S. Straub (FR), 3:42.03; 5. S. Kubista (CZE), 3:42.03; 6. S. Zdravkovic (YUG), 3:42.03; 7. S. Ovett (GB), 3:42.03; 8. S. Busse (GER), 3:42.03; 9. S. Abascal (ESP), 3:42.03; 10. S. Bolt (KEN), 3:42.03; 11. S. Becker (FR), 3:42.03; 12. S. Sly (GB), 3:42.03.

Women
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Triumph for Renault is led by victorious Prost

MOTOR RACING

By John Blunden

Alain Prost took a valuable further step towards his eagerly sought World Championship yesterday when he won the Austrian Grand Prix by a margin of 6.8sec over René Arnoux, whose Ferrari finished a further 21sec clear of the Brabham-BMW of Nelson Piquet.

Piquet is still Prost's closest challenger for the title with four races to run, but the Renault driver now has a useful cushion of 14 points at the top of the table. The race was a comprehensive success for Renault, who not only saw Eddie Cheever finish a close fourth in their second car, but also saw a massive return to engine reliability after their worrying weekend in Germany.

Manelli, however, was a full lap behind at the finish, having fought a gallant battle with tyres which were no match for those worn by Renault. Ferrari and Brabham on the day, with only half of the 26-car field surviving to the finish, and Arnoux and Prost displaced Piquet.

Tambay, Patrese De Angelis and Winkelhock amongst the retirements, as well as the Toleman drivers Warwick and Gimsonelli, Niki Lauda was able to claim an unexpected sixth place in his Marlboro McLaren-Ford, the first of the 1-litre runners.

The race looked likely to be a Ferrari benefit in the first half, with Tambay setting the pace, and Piquet challenging Arnoux's second place. This was the Renault driver's first time in the top three since the first lap when Tambay was held up badly by Jarier, who seemed to be driving with blinkers and blacked-out mirrors a lap behind the field.

Tambay became completely boxed in as he tried desperately to get by, and both Arnoux and Piquet were able to slip by in the traffic. Piquet took fifth place into the lead again, but held it only briefly before driving slowly to his pit with smoke trailing from his car.

After the mid-race pit stops, Piquet held a narrow lead ahead of Arnoux as Prost gradually closed in. On lap 38, with 15 to go, both Arnoux and Prost displaced Piquet.

AMERICA'S CUP

Australia II still on uneven keel

Newport, Rhode Island (Agence) - High winds and rough seas forced the cancellation of the America's Cup trials for the second day running on Saturday, but the war of words over the controversial keel of Australia II, the leading contender, rages on.

On Friday Thomas Ehman, executive director of the US Yacht Racing Syndicate, alleged that the design had been questioned eight months ago by the Australian Yacht Racing Federation, but the Australian federation had been persuaded not to seek a ruling on the keel from the International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU).

Next day Warren Jones, executive director of the Australia II syndicate, hit back, at attempts by the New York Yacht Club to bar the Australian boat, by declaring that the club had not complained about the keel until after an American attempt to buy the design had been turned down.

IN BRIEF

McEnroe falls to qualifier

Montreal (Reuters) - Anders Jarryd, of Sweden, ranked No 83 in the world, beat the No 1, John McEnroe, in straight sets 6-3, 6-4, to reach the final of the Canadian open tennis tournament. Jarryd, aged 22, who had to pre-qualify, overcame a 5-2 deficit in the second set, and clinched victory in the tie-breaker.

McEnroe had looked sluggish from the start, and had several exchanges with spectators during the matches. In the final Jarryd faced an angry crowd, a witness in straight white overalls, who said he was a Nigerian father and a Scottish mother who sadly forfeited his football career because he did not believe in his athletic future - has in the arena of sport again done all his countrymen proud: so infinitely rewarding for the athletic council social administrator who became his surrogate mother.

The two leading women's players in the world, Martina Navratilova and Chris Lloyd, reached the final of the tournament at Manhattan Beach, California, after easy semi-final victories over Pam Shriver and Kasei Lasham, who were unseeded. Both finalists needed only 55 minutes to secure victory.

● Soviet players are to compete in the US Open championships this year for the first time since 1976, two women in the qualifying round of the singles and two boys and two girls in the junior events.

● GOLF: Australia won the Commonwealth women's championship for the first time, in Edmonton, Canada, with a 40-1 victory over Canada, the defending champions, just edging out Britain, who have won the title five times. The championship is held every four years.

● FOOTBALL: Celtic have signed the Coventry City forward Jim McFadden, for £100,000. McFadden, a Scottish under-21 international, came on as a substitute against Rangers in the Glasgow Cup final, which Celtic lost 1-0.

● Frank Burrows, the former Portsmouth manager, has joined the Southampton coaching staff, to look after the reserve and youth teams.

CYCLING

Life in the old Falcon

By John Wilcockson

Sid Barras, the veteran and Falcon professional from York,shire, moved his stall here a few weeks ago, his sleeves when he won yesterday, for the fourth time in 11 years, the Davies and Jago 110 miles road race on Saturday. Strapped in his seat, he was outstripped by the promising Liverpool amateur, Joseph McLaughlin, and the Birmingham professional, Steve Jones, who, another professional, Mick Bennett, taking fourth place more than a minute later.

In the leading group of seven, which split only on the last of 18 laps, was Clive Wright, the former national cyclo-cross champion. He gave a fine demonstration of his road-racing ability by winning both the sprints and climbers' competitions, and he should now join McLaughlin, as Britain's world championship road-race team.

At Telford on Saturday, Wright helped his club, GS Strada, to win their second successive national championship in the 100 kilometres team trial. Their time of 2hr 13min 42sec defeated the Scottish Cycling Union team by 50 seconds.

A slow wheel change ruined the chances of the Anglian team, and the favourites, Manchester Wheelers, and even worse luck. When they were logged out with the leaders, Peter Leppelbottom punctured, and in mistake was given a heavy training wheel as a replacement.

Dee and Dave reckoned it, S. Barras, Falcon, 10 miles to go, 1st place, 2. S. Barras, 11 miles to go, 2nd place, 3. S. Barras, 12 miles to go, 3rd place, 4. S. Barras, 13 miles to go, 4th place, 5. S. Barras, 14 miles to go, 5th place, 6. S. Barras, 15 miles to go, 6th place, 7. S. Barras, 16 miles to go, 7th place, 8. S. Barras, 17 miles to go, 8th place, 9. S. Barras, 18 miles to go, 9th place, 10. S. Barras, 19 miles to go, 10th place, 11. S. Barras, 20 miles to go, 11th place, 12. S. Barras, 21 miles to go, 12th place, 13. S. Barras, 22 miles to go, 13th place, 14. S. Barras, 23 miles to go, 14th place, 15. S. Barras, 24 miles to go, 15th place, 16. S. Barras, 25 miles to go, 16th place, 17. S. Barras, 26 miles to go, 17th place, 18. S. Barras, 27 miles to go, 18th place, 19. S. Barras, 28 miles to go, 19th place, 20. S. Barras, 29 miles to go, 20th place, 21. S. Barras, 30 miles to go, 21st place, 22. S. Barras, 31 miles to go, 22nd place, 23. S. Barras, 32 miles to go, 23rd place, 24. S. Barras, 33 miles to go, 24th place, 25. S. Barras, 34 miles to go, 25th place, 26. S. Barras, 35 miles to go, 26th place, 27. S. Barras, 36 miles to go, 27th place, 28. S. Barras, 37 miles to go, 28th place, 29. S. Barras, 38 miles to go, 29th place, 30. S. Barras, 39 miles to go, 30th place, 31. S. Barras, 40 miles to go, 31st place, 32. S. Barras, 41 miles to go, 32nd place, 33. S. Barras, 42 miles to go, 33rd place, 34. S. Barras, 43 miles to go, 34th place, 35. S. Barras, 44 miles to go, 35th place, 36. S. Barras, 45 miles to go, 36th place, 37. S. Barras, 46 miles to go, 37th place, 38. S. Barras, 47 miles to go, 38th place, 39. S. Barras, 48 miles to go, 39th place, 40. S. Barras, 49 miles to go, 40th place, 41. S. Barras, 50 miles to go, 41st place, 42. S. Barras, 51 miles to go, 42nd place, 43. S. Barras, 52 miles to go, 43rd place, 44. S. Barras, 53 miles to go, 44th place, 45. S. Barras, 54 miles to go, 45th place, 46. S. Barras, 55 miles to go, 46th place, 47. S. Barras, 56 miles to go, 47th place, 48. S. Barras, 57 miles to go, 48th place, 49. S. Barras, 58 miles to go, 49th place, 50. S. Barras, 59 miles to go, 50th place, 51. S. Barras, 60 miles to go, 51st place, 52. S. Barras, 61 miles to go, 52nd place, 53. S. Barras, 62 miles to go, 53rd place, 54. S. Barras, 63 miles to go, 54th place, 55. S. Barras, 64 miles to go, 55th place, 56. S. Barras, 65 miles to go, 56th place, 57. S. Barras, 66 miles to go, 57th place, 58. S. Barras, 67 miles to go, 58th place, 59. S. Barras, 68 miles to go, 59th place, 60. S. Barras, 69 miles to go, 60th place, 61. S. Barras, 70 miles to go, 61st place, 62. S. Barras, 71 miles to go, 62nd place, 63. S. Barras, 72 miles to go, 63rd place, 64. S. Barras, 73 miles to go, 64th place, 65. S. Barras, 74 miles to go, 65th place, 66. S. Barras, 75 miles to go, 66th place, 67. S. Barras, 76 miles to go, 67th place, 68. S. Barras, 77 miles to go, 68th place, 69. S. Barras, 78 miles to go, 69th place, 70. S. Barras, 79 miles to go, 70th place, 71. S. Barras, 80 miles to go, 71st place, 72. S. Barras, 81 miles to go, 72nd place, 73. S. Barras, 82 miles to go, 73rd place, 74. S. Barras, 83 miles to go, 74th place, 75. S. Barras, 84 miles to go, 75th place, 76. S. Barras, 85 miles to go, 76th place, 77. S. Barras, 86 miles to go, 77th place, 78. S. Barras, 87 miles to go, 78th place, 79. S. Barras, 88 miles to go, 79th place, 80. S. Barras, 89 miles to go, 80th place, 81. S. Barras, 90 miles to go, 81st place, 82. S. Barras, 91 miles to go, 82nd place, 83. S. Barras, 92 miles to go, 83rd place, 84. S. Barras, 93 miles to go, 84th place, 85. S. Barras, 94 miles to go, 85th place, 86. S. Barras, 95 miles to go, 86th place, 87. S. Barras, 96 miles to go

CRICKET: NEW ZEALAND HAVE A BATTLE/YORKSHIRE EXTEND THEIR LEAD IN JOHN PLAYER LEAGUE

Botham brings smiles to packed Lord's with a touch of his old swashbuckling form

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

LORDS: England, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 341 runs ahead of New Zealand.

There have been gratifyingly few glum faces to be seen at Lord's during the third Test match, sponsored by Cornhill, between England and New Zealand. For those to whom the cricket has lacked distinction, the weather and a general feeling of complacency have provided ample compensation.

In the absence of rain England should win, if not today, at least in good time tomorrow. At 206 for seven in their second innings they lead by 341 runs.

Not for many years have we had three such lovely days of which to start a Test match. Nowhere in the world could the temperature have been more perfect for cricket: not at Auckland or Adelaide, Bridgetown or Bombay, Cape Town or Karachi. The pitch, unfortunately has not been of the same quality, which really rules out the possibility of New Zealand making as many as they will need to do to win.

The balls which dismissed Lamb in England's first innings and Smith in the second, and Wright when New Zealand batted, reared viciously.

On Saturday Botham made runs, took wickets, and held an important catch. That was splendid, and what came thereafter very clearly as he did so was the extent of his public support. He himself, when he came out to bat, and his fifty when he reached it, were greeted with heartwarming enthusiasm.

If not in his most commanding form, his impact on the play was much more what it used to be.

As England finished off New Zealand's first innings in the morning, Botham took three of the four wickets to fall. The other that of Hadlee, went to Cook in the first over of the day. Hadlee, edging him to Botham at slip, Cook's figures (26-11-35-5) were remarkable.

In his last half dozen championship matches for Leicestershire, he had taken eight wickets at 50 runs apiece. If the selectors knew that when, at the last credit to them, Edmond's figures (20-7-28-5) in his first Test match, against Australia at Melbourne in 1975 were strangely similar.

Since then, until now the only English slow bowler to have taken five wickets in an innings in a Test match in England had been Underwood, who did it at Lord's against the West Indies in 1976 and at Old Trafford against Australia a year later.

Botham has been well schooled in two vital respects: in patience and accuracy, one of which goes with the other. He found the ball would turn, which was fortunate for him, and made the most of it.

Of the other newcomers in the England side, Foster has bowled quite promisingly without, as yet, taking a wicket, and Smith despite the embarrassment of his first innings failure, has given a fair idea of how he plays. He is undoubtedly tenacious, though the wisdom of pairing him with Tavaré

must be doubted. If they were both to strike one of their more strokeless days, I shudder to think what might happen. Smith was fifth out on Saturday, having made 43 in 61 overs.

Urging him off the mark and away from that dreaded "pair", at the start of England's second innings, gave the crowd 20 minutes of enjoyable suspense. Joe Darling, a great Australian, seems to have emerged as the most distinguished cricketer to have taken a first ball in his first Test innings. He did it at Sydney in 1894-95. Although in my report on Friday it appeared that Victor Trumper, who also failed to score in his first Test innings must have become a naturalized Englishman, he was of course, and although will be every bit as dinkum an Aussie as Darling. Influenced by Cook's success, Howarth has given Gary an orthodox left-arm spinner, plenty of bowling in England's second innings.

But Gary has responded with three good wickets. Tavaré was out early this time, the forward prop, the stroke which is the basis of his game, for once letting him down. He was caught at silly point off Hadlee. After a near thing as soon as he came in, Gower played easily and pleasantly until being well caught at short leg. Lamb was caught at slip off a ball from Gray that turned, his feet nowhere near where the text-book would have had them. Gating having just gone down the pitch and straight driven Gray for four, did the same again but without this time, hitting straight. The idea was healthy, the execution less so.

When Taylor came in, at 147 for five, England were in good of a few more runs for the sake of their mind. Botham with Taylor sticking with him, as he had with Gating in the first innings, made sure they got

them. If his fire power was not all it can be, it was still formidable, so that he time he skied Chatfield to cover point England were well over 300 ahead.

Not for the first time it seemed a pity that the play had to end on the dot of six o'clock, the day's quota of 96 over having been bowled—96 seems a skimpy sort of figure anyway: 100 would have a fuller ring about it, with 6.30 as the earliest time for the drawing of stumps.

Not the least of Saturday's charms was the absence of the more mindless noises which tend now to plague cricketing occasions, like the banging together of cans and the chanting of names and the blowing of horns. The applause was spontaneous, the support for both sides equally generous.

ENGLAND: First innings, 206 (1) Gower 108, 101 (2) Smith 43, 101 (3) Lamb 43, 101 (4) Taylor 43, 101 (5) Smith 43, 101 (6) Smith 43, 101 (7) Smith 43, 101 (8) Smith 43, 101 (9) Smith 43, 101 (10) Smith 43, 101 (11) Smith 43, 101 (12) Smith 43, 101 (13) Smith 43, 101 (14) Smith 43, 101 (15) Smith 43, 101 (16) Smith 43, 101 (17) Smith 43, 101 (18) Smith 43, 101 (19) Smith 43, 101 (20) Smith 43, 101 (21) Smith 43, 101 (22) Smith 43, 101 (23) Smith 43, 101 (24) Smith 43, 101 (25) Smith 43, 101 (26) Smith 43, 101 (27) Smith 43, 101 (28) Smith 43, 101 (29) Smith 43, 101 (30) Smith 43, 101 (31) Smith 43, 101 (32) Smith 43, 101 (33) Smith 43, 101 (34) Smith 43, 101 (35) Smith 43, 101 (36) Smith 43, 101 (37) Smith 43, 101 (38) Smith 43, 101 (39) Smith 43, 101 (40) Smith 43, 101 (41) Smith 43, 101 (42) Smith 43, 101 (43) Smith 43, 101 (44) Smith 43, 101 (45) Smith 43, 101 (46) Smith 43, 101 (47) Smith 43, 101 (48) Smith 43, 101 (49) Smith 43, 101 (50) Smith 43, 101 (51) Smith 43, 101 (52) Smith 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Edited by Peter Lee

TONIGHT'S PROM

1.50 Jazz in Britain: with Charles Fox. **Medium Frequency/Medium Wave** as **via above except:** 10.55am-6.30pm **Cricket:** Third Test, England v New Zealand at Lord's, fourth day including 1.05 **News** 1.10 **Call the Commentators. VHF Only - Open University: 6.15am Poetry: Surrealism 6.35-6.55 Music: Intertube 11.20am Psychology and Jane Yore 11.40-12.0 Who Will Care for me While I'm Dying?**

News.
The Peasants of the South

The Passions of the Soul: Strauss' music concert, with the 100-piece Silber-Pfeifer, Grunow, Schmetzner, On records. 1

By British Composers: Includes works by Ireland (A Lament Overture), George Butterworth (Phantasy: A Pastoral Sketch), Ralph Vaughan Williams (Two Inland French Folk Melodies) and Phyllis Tate (London Fields).

New Records: Includes playing Chamber Orchestras featuring the Four Seasons by Vivaldi, Mozart's Violin Sonata in C, K. 296 played by Oscar Shumsky and Artur Schnabel (piano) and the Violin Concerto No. 7 played by Philharmonia Orch. under Ashkenazy. 1

Mainly for Pleasure: Presented by Naxos Vienna. Includes a variety of music for piano and orchestras (at £6.00).

Lahti, Finland. Works by
Messiaen | Ravel and de Falla

plays in the Grand Choral of the Loreto,
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reads Paula Kelly's murder story.

VARIATIONS

ENTRAL As London except:
9:25am S-2 to 1 Contract.
Morning Service, 10:25 jump.
11:45 Film: Swiss Nazi (Lehr Film).
1:45 Film: Amsterdam Affair
am Meriwale, 3:35-4:00 Jump.
4:00-4:30 News, 6:00-7:00
8:00-10:00 Journey, 10:30 Crown
News, 11:30 News, 11:35 Crown
News, 11:50 Two U.s., 12:30am
12:50am.

ANADIA As London except:
10:30am Singing.
Circ. Tracy, 11:00 Poleson Film.
12:00 Cartoon, 1:20pm Granada
News, 1:30 This Afternoon in Belfast.
1:50-2:00 News, 2:00-2:10 Singing,
2:45 Laurel and Hardy, 6:30 At
6:45 News, 6:35-7:00 Down to
Earth.

See, 11.30 Film: *Serena* (Honor
man). 12.45am Closedown.

WEST As London except 10.25am Soccer Skills. 11.00 Wild, Wild World of Cats. 11.25 Once Upon A Time. 11.55-12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 News. 1.30 Cartoon. 1.40 Film: Miss (Laurel and Hardy). 3.00 Film: Miss (Laurel and Hardy). 5.15-5.30-4.00 Royal Family. 5.15-5.30 Royal Family. 6.00-7.00 News. 10.00 Hill Street Blues. 10.30 Film: Scar (Richard Burton). 12.20am

7 WALES As HTV West except
6.00pm-7.00 Wales

WALES	As HTV West except: 6.00pm-7.00 Wales	Go
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LONDON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THEATRE.
Until Sat. All over
Bloomington, ICA Drill Hs.

FESTIVAL OF THE THREE D
Until Sat. All over London.
Theatre of the City, London.
Hammerhead, Riverside, Albright,
Hammersmith Arts Centre, Late Night
Club, Music, The Old Vic, The
Hed. King Liff & Versus for theatre.
Theatre of the City, London.
Theatre of the City, London.

LONDON PALLADIUM 7375
Ever 7.30, Matt. Wed & Sat 5.30
MATINEE TODAY 2.45
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FIRST-CLASS PRODUCTION
TOMMY STEELE IN
SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
THE NEW BOY
"SINGIN' IN THE RAIN HAS
BECOME THE NEW LAVISH
MUSICAL BANG OF THE YEAR. END
WITH A VENGROSE, LAVISH
PRODUCTION OF THE NEW
COSTUMES, GLITTERING BUSY
SCENES, DANCE ROUTINES."
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LARGE SONG AND DANCE
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PICCADILLY, Air Condition
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CABARET.
Nightly at 9.00pm
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Starting Action 8.00

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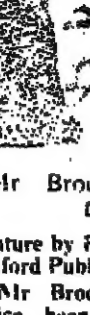
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By Kenneth Gosling

While the photographers of the Great Western Railway went out with their plate cameras at the turn of the century they brought back not only pictures of trains, stations and newly-appointed station-masters, but also a record of life in town and country.

Their glass negatives gathered dust in hundreds of boxes stored at Paddington station, west London. Little of their work appeared on the inside posters or as views in railway carriages.

Now Mr Alan Brock, a photographic consultant, has begun cataloguing and processing the quarters of the negative material retrieved from storage as part of a joint



Mr Brock: Cataloguing the past.

venture by British Rail and the Oxford Publishing Company.

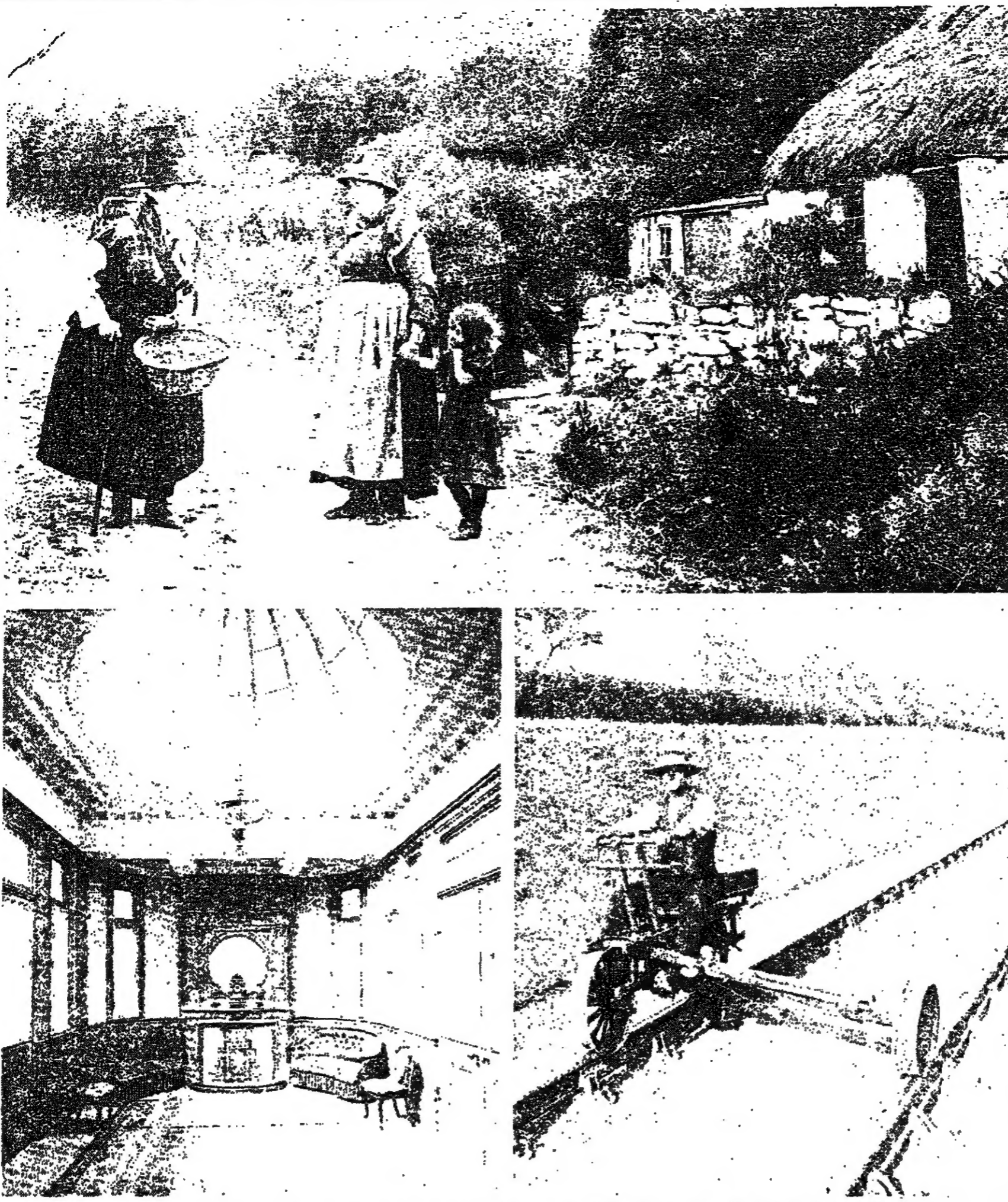
Mr Brock, aged 52, had twice been made redundant when he heard of the collection. His task could last many years and it is bound to add immeasurably to pictorial knowledge of British life between the late 1830s and the 1940s.

The pictures include many that are not identified because photographers did not list them.

The ladies having a chat look Welsh but Mr Brock cannot be certain: the railway ganger on his self-propelled trolley is certainly vintage 1900; and there is no dispute that the magnificently decorated and furnished apartment was once Queen Victoria's official station waiting room at Windsor.

Mr Brock has already produced subject lists of many categories in the collection. From one ledger alone he produced 10,000 items.

His lists are available to anyone who cares to send him a stamped self-addressed envelope to 302 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth, Dorset.



Where do Russian leaders go in summer? The traditional answer is to the Black Sea, although in this (as in other things) Mr Andropov seems to have a style of his own.

The first elite dachas at Sochi were built at the turn of the century. The Tsar's pseudo-Renaissance palace at Livadia, along the coast at Yalta, was completed in 1911. It served as the site of the 1945 Yalta conference, no doubt because Stalin liked the climate (even in February).

Khrushchev preferred palm-fringed Pitsunda, on the Georgian Black Sea coast, but Brezhnev moved the Kremlin's summer headquarters back to the Crimea, and spent much an August sailing, usually going out and receiving foreign guests at Oreanda, looking for all the world like one of President Nixon's less savoury business companions, in his windcheater and dark glasses.

Each new Soviet leader always finds fault with his predecessor's summertime arrangements, so that the whole paraphernalia of presidential communications, including the hotline to the White House, has to be carted off to some new specially-equipped dacha.

Mr Andropov has full access to the Poliburo Kremlin dachas. But he seems to prefer to spend his leisure time (when he has any) in the mountains of his native Caucasus.

Mr Andropov has a new and specially-equipped dacha just outside Moscow, so that he can enjoy the woods and the Moscow River while being able to dash down to the Kremlin in a convoy of black limousines if the need arises.

He also has a presidential flat not far from the city centre, on the same street as *The Times* office, but does not often use it, possibly because it now bears a plaque saying: "Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev lived here."

But when the sun sparkles above the mountain lakes and meadows of the Caucasus, Mr Andropov is drawn to the spa of Kislovodsk, about 3,000 ft above sea level. Brezhnev has a dacha there, and it is the Soviet leader's birthplace in the Stavropol region.

It has long been a centre for the treatment of nervous and cardiac disorders, not to mention kidney complaints and diabetes, all of which sounds like a summary of Mr Andropov's last check-up.

The spa was founded in 1823, and produces the only drinkable Russian mineral water, called *Narzan*. At the exclusive sanatorium at Red Stones (so named because of the red sandstone formations; there are also grey stones and blue stones) VIPs can take a rest cure while gazing at a backdrop of snow-capped peaks and mountain greenery.

Or they can take the waters at the spa, with its English Gothic revival (1849) and Indian imperial (1930s) style buildings.

Both the spas in the Caucasus and the beach resorts of the Black Sea are popular with less elevated Russians, although the accommodation and service are somewhat less exclusive.

Russia there is no question of checking into the hotel of your choice. Factories and offices across the Soviet Union issue "houses of rest" and sanatoria.

The conditions may be sparse, but *putyovkas* are much sought after, and holidaymakers say they live like kings for a few weeks compared to the drudgery of their daily lives.

Most Russians expect their leaders to live well and do not seem to resent ostentatious privilege (not aloud at any rate).

As they sunbathe at Suchi and Sukhumi, Soviet holidaymakers are aware that their leaders enjoy a more luxurious lifestyle behind well-guarded walls, but say there is not much they can do about it and admit they would probably do the same if they were in power.

In this sense, Mr Andropov, while satisfyingly stern and disciplinarian over public policy, is rather disappointing: austere and spartan in private life. Russians identify rather more with Brezhnev, who unashamedly enjoyed the good life.

Not long before he died he invited a foreign communist leader to his Crimean dacha and sat with him the vast, now otherwise empty beach, drinking cognac brought out by the dacha servants and listening to dissident songs on a portable gramophone. Brezhnev was observed by a Moscow intellectual who was holidaying on a VIP beach near by.

It is difficult to imagine the *Narzan*-sipping Mr Andropov either getting mellow on the beach over a bottle of cognac or allowing anyone to get close enough to watch him.

Richard Owen

Richard Owen

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16.208

ACROSS

1 Fine art that adds fictitious detail (10).

2 Polish enthusiast (4).

3 Early stages Wordsworth connected with heaven (7).

4 Sound advice to act as old magistrate, so as to dispossess (7).

5 Anger about nearly all French hangovers (9).

6 Makes fail for senior churchman in quarters (5).

7 A cast it's a pleasure to have (5).

8 Science of words is gloomy yet needs revision (9).

9 Dangerous line for those seeking promotion in Lulliput (9).

10 One-man drawing device (5).

11 In which Hengist and Horsa break a sword (5).

12 Boy meets girl - divine intuition (9).

13 How to hold something you mustn't touch (2,5).

14 One held by landlord as a man of property (7).

15 How minute a bird can be (4).

16 The fly in the Cock Robin affair (3-7).

DOWN

1 Roman magistrate rising to suppress a letter (5).

2 Sailing - and what it should do when made up (9).

3 Odd mixture of all Romans assembled with hesitation (6,8).

4 Light work for those who don't (or rather do) mind children (3,4).

5 A swindle in the light of day, this deprivation (7).

6 A way of treating practice (5).

7 In this case more than one stroke is possible (4-5).

8 What a bind for Romeo and Juliet! (4-6,4).

9 A possible misfit, she has an irrational obsession (9).

10 There may lie no hope, perhaps, for a man of taste (9).

11 Remain too long on strike, Guy (7).

12 Hair that shoots up under shock treatment? (7).

13 Stuck up no bill (5).

14 Used for weaving travellers' tales (15).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,207 will appear next Saturday

CONCISE CROSSWORD, PAGE 8

Today's events

Exhibitions in progress

Paintings by Dennis Knight and Constance Stubbs. The Hadleigh Gallery (Adda & Sons, Scarsdale, 1.31).

High Street, Hadleigh, Ipswich: Tues to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5, closed Wed afternoon (until Sept 3).

Local Look: Countryside exhibition, Brook, Isle of Wight: Mon to Sat, 10.30 to 6.30, Sun 2.30 to 6 (until Aug 31).

Through Children's Eyes. Arts Council exhibition, Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Hull: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 4.30 (until Sept 11).

Last chance to see

Works by Susan Horsfield and Herbert Morel, Halesworth Galleries, Skepple End, Halesworth, Suffolk: Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 3 to 6 (ends Friday).

Talks, lectures

Keny's and Uganda, by Mike Knowles, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, 10.30.

Music

Organ recital by Rowland Cotterill, Coventry Cathedral, 1.05.

Douglas Town Band, Sea Terminal, Douglas, Isle of Man, 8.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 3KA V18653; the winner comes from Norfolk; £50,000: 10KJ 143924 (Merseyside); £25,000: 22ZN 323904 (London borough of Haringey).

The pound

	Bank	Boys	Bank	Boys
Australia \$	1.76	1.68		
Austria S	29.45	27.90		
Belgium Fr	83.50	79.50		
Canada \$	1.89	1.81		
Denmark Kr	15.05	14.35		
Finland Mk	8.96	8.50		
France F	12.53	11.98		
Germany DM	4.19	3.99		
Greece Dr	143.00	132.00		
Hongkong \$	11.55	10.90		
Ireland Pt	1.32	1.26		
Italy L	247.00	235.00		
Japan Yen	364.00	364.00		
Netherlands Gld	4.67	4.45		
Norway Kr	11.62	11.05		
Portugal Esc	188.00	178.00		
South Africa Rd	1.99	1.84		
Spain Ptas	231.50	220.50		
Sweden Kr	11.24	11.64		
Switzerland Fr	3.37	3.30		
USA \$	1.52	1.47		
Yugoslavia Dnr	163.00	151.00		

Retail Price Index 336.5.

London: The FT Index closed down 1.8 on Friday at 723.7.

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 8.44 on Friday at 1182.83.

Nature notes

Herons still stand on their nests, though their young are fully grown and can only be distinguished by their grey heads and rudimentary crest. Sometimes a flock of 10 or 12 will sit on a feed together, they call to each other with a duck-like quack, rather than the usual deep honk of a solitary bird. Lapwings are beginning to arrive from the Continent: the first birds come mainly of young birds who have set off ahead of their parents. Starlings wheel in the air like swallows, in pursuit of flying insects. Blackbirds are moulting: they look like worn velvet cushions.

In the hedges, berries are ripening. Most Hawthorn berries are still apple green, but some have a dark-red flush. There is a wash of orange on the rowan berries: the poisonous berries of hawthorn, or holly, are already a brilliant scarlet. Conker shells are like pale green decorations on the dark foliage of the horse chestnut trees: on the ash, the yellow seeds, or lons, are as bright as a new crop of lilies. Gipsywort has grown very tall this year, with brackets of white blo-loom all the way up the leafy stem.

DJM

Anniversaries

Births: Napoleon Bonaparte, Ajaccio, Corsica, 1769; Sir Walter Scott, Edinburgh, 1771; Walter Crane, painter, Liverpool, 1845; James Earl Ray, founder (1893) of the Independent Labour Party, Leghbrank, Lancashire, 1856; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, composer, London, 1875.

The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index average of second-hand houses (seasonally adjusted)

Month	Index	Average price (£)	% change - over the preceding 1 year	% change - over the preceding 6 months	% change - over the preceding 3 months
1977 December	100.0	14,179			
1978 December	121.1	17,666	21.2	10.7	2.4
1979 December	131.1	19,810	9.8	12.6	1.1
1980 December	151.0	23,221	16.9	23.3	0.2
1981 January	167.7	24,752	10.0	24.3	0.8
February	170.9	25,166	1.7	1.3	1.7
March	177.9	25,779	2.5	0.1	-1.9
April	187.7	26,362	-1.1	-6.4	-4.5
May	197.9	26,972	3.1	1.1	2.4
June	199.1	27,449	-1.6	-8.1	-3.8
July	204.5	28,245	-2.7	-7.0	-3.2
August	210.8	29,178	15.6	3.6	2.6
September	218.0	29,858	11.6	4.3	-1.2
October	224.0	30,607	3.0	2.7	1.7
November	229.4	31,184	1.4	2.3	3.8
December	235.6	32,108	11.1	2.0	2.3
January	242.5	32,754	2.2	2.0	

TEACHER'S. A WELCOME AWAITING.